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Lawson faces pressure to drop tax cuts

Chancellor to stay for 'two more Budgets'

By David Blake and Philip Webster

Big cuts in income tax in the next Budget are being called into question by the unexpected buoyancy of the British economy.

Bad trade figures this week and a surprising surge in sales just before Christmas have convinced some of Mr Nigel Lawson's senior advisers that the economy is overheating.

But the Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to press on with plans to reduce the basic rate of income tax towards his goal of 25p in the pound and, even more important, from his point of view, to cut the top rate from its current level of 60p.

Mr Lawson, it emerged last night, hopes to introduce two more tax-reforming and tax-cutting budgets before he moves to another senior government post.

Mr Lawson, whose popularity on the right and centre of the Conservative Party has grown steadily in recent months, is understood to accept that he should move from the job he held throughout the last parliament some time during the present one.

But he has told colleagues that he would rather move in a reshuffle in the autumn of 1989 than in 1988.

The Chancellor's dilemma over his next tax cut is caused by the success of the British economy and its resolute refusal to turn down after the stock market crash of October 19.

Before the crash, there were many signs that the economy was overheating. But experts thought that a collapse in share values would make consumers cut their spending because they were worried about the value of their assets.

Evidence suggests this has not happened. Imports surged in November as foreign companies pushed goods into Britain. Anecdotal evidence available to the Treasury suggests that the goods went straight from warehouses into shops and then into people's homes as consumers defied predictions of a downturn in spending.

If the November trade figures were repeated every month, they would lead to a trade deficit next year of more than £13 billion, and a current-account deficit of more than *£7 billion*.

That leads some senior officials in the Treasury, led by Sir Terence Burns, chief economic adviser, to argue that the economy needs to be *cooled down rather than* warmed up in the next Budget.

The question has provoked a confrontation between Sir Terence and Mr Lawson who were close allies in earlier debates about the formation of government policy.

Sir Terence was a strong advocate of the tight Budget in 1981 which many, but not all, people believe was the foundation of the current success.

He is thought to believe that against the background where the UK economy could be growing by as much as 6 per cent this year, the last thing it needs is an injection of extra spending power through lower taxes.

Mr Lawson is thought to believe that he has "paid his dues" in terms of showing fiscal responsibility, and feels he should move on to the other task of a Chancellor, which is making special reforms in the taxation system.

Although a strong critic of the huge US deficit, which has resulted in part from tax cuts, he believes that the supply side gains which have been made by the American action in cutting tax rates for the highly paid to as low as 28 per cent are a model that cannot afford to avoid if it wants to be successful.

The Prime Minister had been expected to make her reshuffle of the parliament in the autumn of 1989. It was at that time that Mr Lawson was expected to move to the Foreign Office to take over from Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Now events may force her to make earlier changes. But Mr Lawson is said to be keen to stay at the Treasury for a little longer to complete the tasks he has set himself.

The situation for Mrs Thatcher has been complicated by the prospect that she may have to appoint a new Leader of the Lords in the new year.

Although Lord Whitelaw is recovering well from the minor stroke he suffered earlier this month it is felt that he may have to step down from the rigorous job of pushing the Government's heavy legislative load through the Lords.

Mrs Thatcher's task of finding a successor for Lord Whitelaw, if she has to, is made difficult by the fact that some of the most senior candidates, including Sir Geoffrey, do not want to move.

Mr John Wakeham, the former chief whip who is now Leader of the Commons, has been mentioned as a possibility in Westminster circles.

Boxing Day with The Times

For the first time *The Times* is published on Boxing Day.

The unrivalled news and sports service is complemented today by The Times quiz of the year, on page 13, the jumbo crossword, on page 17, and the weekend television and radio highlights, on page 19.

Boxing Day sport is previewed, and all eight racecards are on pages 28 and 29.

The Queen's Christmas message is printed in full and there is a detailed report of the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon (Page 4).

Also on page 4 is a preview of the Cabinet secrets of 30 years ago and memories of the cost of living in 1957.

One of the biggest problems of Christmas is solved on page 15 with recipes using the last of the turkey and other leftovers.

Police hero of King's Cross disaster goes home

PC Stephen Hanson and his wife Lorraine, son Luke, aged three, and daughter Genevieve, aged 11 weeks, saying farewell yesterday to hospital staff (Photograph: Alan Weller).

PC enjoys a family reunion

Stephen Hanson, the British Transport Police constable burnt attempting to rescue passengers trapped in the King's Cross fire, was released from University College Hospital, London, yesterday in time for a Christmas lunch party with his family.

Pc Hanson, who is still unable to talk about his experiences on the night of the disaster, said: "I feel great to be going home. I always had it in my mind to be out for Christmas Day."

He was hurt after attempting to stop passengers coming up the burning escalator at King's Cross.

As the fire spread he was knocked over by a sheet of flame, and though he flattened himself next to a wall near the ground he said his hands caught fire and "just melted".

Mr Michael Brough, the consultant plastic surgeon, said that Pc Hanson had recovered extremely rapidly after having extensive skin grafts to both hands. "Both the grafts have taken well, but he still has to undergo considerable physiotherapy to restore the mobility to his hands, and he will have to wear specially-fitted pressure garments for some time to reduce the scarring."

Mr Brough said that Pc Hanson was the third of six King's Cross survivors with extensive burns to be released from the hospital in the past few days. The three remaining had undergone operations last week and would remain in hospital for at least another month.

Pc Hanson, who is 32 and lives in Milton Keynes, said that though he had originally hoped to be able to return to work in March, he now expected that it would not be possible before August.

His only comment about his role in the fire was: "I did my duty. If people like to call that being a hero, then so be it."

Weather turns meek and mild for Christmas

By Robin Young

It was a strangely unseasonal Christmas. With temperatures around *8C to 10C (48F to 50F)* over Britain and bright sunshine in many areas, Christmas Day was as warm as some days in late September and about the average for mid-November.

The few extra degrees contrived to make the artificial snow in window decorations and on Christmas trees look anachronistic and out of place. It sounded slightly foolish saying "*Merry Christmas*" on such a mild and quiet day.

The Queen, in her Christmas broadcast, had said that the Christmas message of goodwill has usually evaporated by the time Boxing Day is over. This year the climate seemed almost set on precluding any Christmas atmosphere at all.

The Queen referred to the horifying explosion at Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday and pleaded for reconciliation, tolerance and understanding.

In Northern Ireland, inevitably, Christmas Day was a normal working day for 10,000 regular soldiers and the police, intent on maintaining security. Soldiers on stand-by celebrated Christmas with their boots on, ready for *action within ten minutes* of any alert.

At Canterbury the Archbishop, Dr Robert Runcie, called for prayers for all those over whom a shadow had *fallen in the past year* — victims of war, famine, unemployment, poverty, bereavement or sorrow. "Those who love most", he said, "are most exposed to sorrow."

Throughout Britain the Samaritans maintained an answering service for those whose loneliness is only made more miserable at Christmas.

A Samaritan manning the lines in Cardiff said: "Sometimes we get calls from people who are desperate, but you can hear the music and merriment of family parties in the background.

"You do not have to be alone to be *lonely*."

While most people were indoors with family parties, crackers and puddings, most inner cities areas revealed a few down and outs picking *their way through overflowing* litter bins in the the back streets. For them at least the mild weather had come as a relief.

Down and outs on a building site on London's South Bank, for example, had lit a fire but were sucking at bottles of British sherry and cans of lager well away from its warmth.

Some of their friends, they said, had gone to the Crisis at Christmas shelter but they thought that this year it was so pleasant outside it did not seem worth it.

In Cornwall, where gorse is blooming brightly, surfers were out in numbers, but

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Runcie sermon 4
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Time of 'quiet sadness' in Bethlehem

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The Holy Land spent a "sad and quiet" Christmas as special military courts began *sentencing 650 youths* detained after two weeks of violent disturbances in the occupied territory.

With bad weather helping the security forces keep order and 21 dead and 158 wounded according to Israeli figures, or 29 dead and more than 300 wounded according to Palestinian figures, there seemed little inclination in the refugee camps and Arab towns to take on the reinforced Army units, which have orders to act with maximum firmness to break up disturbance by whatever measures are felt necessary.

In an interview with *The Jersualem Post* yesterday, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, said that the new tough measures would last "until there is stability. I will not predict, however, when this will be."

In Bethlehem, Christmas was ushered in with the traditional midnight Mass in the *Roman Catholic Church of St* Katherine, beside the Church of the Holy Nativity.

Although the service was packed with diplomats and prominent citizens, including *Israeli military commanders*, there were almost more soldiers than pilgrims in the rain-swept Manger Square, watching the ceremony relayed on to a giant outdoor screen.

Everyone *arriving in* the square was checked by a metal detector, with security almost as tight as that found at an airport. Troops were on most roof tops, shivering in their waterproof uniforms as the rain lashed down.

It all made for what Mr Elias Freij, the town's Mayor, called "a sad, quiet Christmas." Shopkeepers have done virtually no business in the pre-Christmas period, and even shops run by Catholics, which normally close for the *day, opened yesterday in the* hope of catching some trade.

The special military courts set up to try the hundreds of young people began work amid suggestions that they would need to bring in new streamlined procedures to get through their work.

Most of the people arrested are in their late teens and early twenties, but there were also a hundred or so *juveniles* detained for offences such as stone throwing. Sentences have ranged from three to *eight months in jail*, with additional fines of up to 1500 shekels (£520).

Israel Cabinet unites 5

In his interview Mr Rabin was unapologetic about the iron-fist tactics of the army. "Our policies have not changed. We will fight terrorism and unrest and encourage those elements who want peace. We will *close schools* that have ceased to fulfil their functions as educational institutions and which have been consistent in allowing their children out in the streets," he said.

With the arrests and detentions continuing, and the number in custody expected to rise to 1,000, the Government has to decide soon on *what to do with the prisoners*.

Jordan has announced that it will refuse to accept any prisoners Israel tries to deport.

Jordan said that this step is being taken to help the Palestinians *in their steadfast* struggle for their land. King Husain has also decided to award a pension to all the families of those who have died in the disturbances as a sign of Arab solidarity.

Dollar hits lowest post-war levels

By John Bell and David Watts

After sliding in currency markets in London and New York on Christmas Eve, the dollar fell to a record post-war low in Tokyo yesterday.

Despite two attempts by the Bank of Japan to halt the slide by buying dollars in the market, the US currency briefly touched Yen 125.10, well below its previous post war low. The dollar closed at 125.20 yen and 1.6130 marks against125.65 and 1.6340 in Tokyo on Thursday. The pound also reflected the dollar's slide in Tokyo. Japanese banks were quoting sterling at $1.8450, a rise of almost a cent on the London closing rate on Christmas Eve.

Currency dealers in other centres are likely to see the Tokyo falls as a warning of a further bout of weakness in the dollar when trading resumes after the Christmas break. Dealers see little reason to stop selling the US currency until they see signs of real improvement in the US trade deficit and firm evidence that the US government is prepared to defend the dollar.

The dollar's previous post-war closing lows against the yen and the mark were 125.85 yen and 1.6175 marks *set in* New York on December 17. Japanese foreign exchange dealers attributed some of the new weakness in the dollar to the low level of trading in Tokyo yesterday, when other major financial centres were closed for the Christmas holiday.

But there was general agreement that dissatisfaction over Wednesday's *statement from* the Group of Seven finance ministers and central bankers (G7) was also a major influence.

The G7 statement committed members to further economic co-operation and stated that a further decline in the dollar could harm the world economy. But financial markets around the world remain uncertain about the attitude of the US to maintaining the present levels of the dollar against the currencies of its leading international competitors, Germany and Japan.

Prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange took a tumble for the fourth consecutive day.The TSE average of 225 selected issues,having shed 150:48 points on Thursday,lost another 422:43 points to close at 22,120:94

Stock markets, page 22

Reward offers for crime informants

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government is to promote a nationwide anti-crime programme in the new year to encourage local businesses to pay for rewards to informants and finance phone numbers which people can ring to report their suspicions.

The Crime Stopper scheme *would see local businesses and* industry combine with the police in offering rewards of £200 to £300 for information given on particular crimes.

These will include murder, rape and armed robbery as well as more obviously business-related crime. Companies would pay for the staffing of the phone lines.

Similar schemes have been run successfully in Norwich *and Norfolk*, where cash rewards paid for by the local chamber of commerce were offered after the publicizing of a "crime of the week".

Police found there was a very substantial response which resulted in an improved clear-up rate.

In addition, calls came in not just on the "crime of the week" featured in the local press and radio stations but with information on a wide range of crimes.

Ministers believe the public *is happier to give information* to an anonymous voice at the end of a telephone rather than call in at a police station.

Mr John Patten, the Minister of State at the Home Office with special responsibility for crime prevention, said yesterday: "We would like to see similar schemes considered in all large British towns and cities".

Mr Patten is shortly to meet Sir David Nickson, the president of the Confederation of British Industry, to see how they can co-operate. He is also to see representatives of chambers of commerce to

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IN PART ②

Fenwick move

Arsenal are preparing a bid to sign Terry Fenwick, the Queen's Park Rangers and England defender, to consolidate their challenge for the championship..........Page 32

Share blast

Small investors are finding stockbrokers offer them "*a third-class service at first-class rates*", says the Labour MP Tony Blair

Family Money, pages 23-25

Portfolio

- **There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, the daily prize of £4,000 and the £8,000 weekly prize. Yesterday two readers shared a £12,000 prize which had accumulated over the previous two days. Details, page 3.**
- ***Portfolio list*, page *27*; weekly check, page 24**

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Undaunted pilot ditches microlight in the Gulf

Mr Milton: Chocolate bar for Christmas lunch.

By Nicholas Beeston

A British pilot attempting to fly solo to Australia in a microlight plane made a forced landing in the Gulf yesterday when his aircraft apparently ran out of fuel north of Abu Dhabi.

Mr Brian Milton, aged 45, was rescued by a helicopter which took him to the nearby oil platform of Zakum. He was unhurt and said his microlight could probably be repaired once it had been lifted from the sea.

"I was flying at 2,000 feet from Dhahran (Saudi Arabia) to Abu Dhabi when the engine started *sputtering* and then cut out," he said. "She sometimes does that but usually comes back to life."

He said he informed Abu Dhabi air control of his predicament as he was *forced to glide down into the water.* "I landed about 1½ miles from an oil tanker but they kept on sailing," he said. "She landed whole but I lost my canopy, two cameras and my radio."

He said the calm weather and seas saved the microlight from further damage and that within 20 minutes two Canadians in a helicopter took on board *his baggage and then flew him* to the nearby oil complex at Zakum.

"They offered me some Christmas lunch but I opted for a chocolate bar instead," he said.

The 300-pound Dalgety Flyer left London's Docklands airport on December 7 on a 12,000-mile flight to Darwin, which Mr Milton had hoped to complete in 30 days. The trip is to commemorate the epic journey of Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith, who flew to *Darwin in less than 30 days in 1919.*

Mr Milton said that two boats had set off to retrieve the microlight. "All the compartments in the wing are water-tight so they should keep it afloat," he explained. "What worries me is that she could be damaged when she is taken out of the water, so I am hoping to be flown out to dismantle her before she is put on the boat."

His journey through the Middle East has been plagued by delays. Earlier this month high winds flipped the £13,500 aircraft over after a landing on the Greek island of Kithira, causing a six-day delay. In Jordan the plane had to make an emergency landing on a road, caused by a refuelling error at the Red Sea port of Aqaba. Earlier this week he was compelled to land in the Arabian *desert because of a sandstorm.*

THE DUNHILL SALE IS NOW ON AT SELFRIDGES

Reductions on cotton shirts, silk ties, jackets, knitwear and luxury accessories for men.

Selfridges

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE IT.

NEWS ROUNDUP

US airman and son die in blaze

Andrew Dereki, an American airman, and his son Michael, aged three, died yesterday in a blaze at their house in Dennington, north of Framlingham, Suffolk.

Mr Dereki, an aircraft engineer, aged 23, was based at RAF Bentwaters, Woodbridge.

The alarm was raised by a girl who went to the house to share in the opening of presents. Mr Ray Harvey, a neighbour, said: "The village is stunned. Since Andrew's wife left him about three months ago all the village has mucked in to help him out."

Miss Margaret Lewis, aged 33, and Mr Raymond Hopkins, aged 39, died yesterday in a house fire in Llanelli, South Wales and Mr Ronald Doonan, aged 52, was killed in a fire at his home in Uddingstone, Strathclyde.

Cardinal's appeal

Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, the Irish Catholic Primate, has called on Northern Ireland MPs to support Mr David Alton's private member's Bill amending the Abortion Act, 1968.

The Liberal MP's Bill proposes to reduce the maximum period for performing abortions from 28 weeks to 18.

Preaching at the Christmas Midnight Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, Cardinal O'Fiaich said Mr Alton's Bill was still far from the Roman Catholic teaching that abortion is wrong, but should be supported

Education on show

The Department of Education and Science is hoping to take a stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition to promote the Government's education policies.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, says that such a plan would be against the rules governing central government publicity and advertising.

The Department of Education said: "We are planning to take the Government's education policies to the consumer. The Ideal Home Exhibition is an ideal place to do this sort of thing."

£8,000 go-kart post

The appointment of an £8,000 a year go-kart officer by the controlling Labour group on Reading council, Berkshire, has been criticized by a Conservative councillor.

Mr Bernard Constantine has taken charge of the borough's six go-karts and is organizing sessions for local *schools and clubs.*

Mr Martin Salter, chairman of the council's leisure committee, described the go-kart project as "dynamic and popular". A Conservative councillor, Mr Ron Jewitt, said: "It's incredible. It is typical of the empire-building going on under Labour in Reading."

Watch on tanker

Conservationists were *last* night keeping watch on a tanker which ran aground off one of Britain's most important nature reserves in the north east of Scotland on Christmas Eve.

The 1,000-ton Christian, which was unladen apart from 45 tons of fuel oil, went aground on the 1,500-acre Sands of Forvie in Grampian, where wader birds are wintering. A salvage tug is expected to try to pull the ship off the sands at high water today and the coastguard said there was no immediate pollution threat.

Campaign for mine

Scottish miners and their local MPs have launched a campaign to save the threatened Seafield colliery at Fife, which may close with the loss of 640 jobs.

British Coal is expected to settle the pit's future on January 11.

Several weeks ago, the corporation said there would have to be a dramatic improvement in production at the pit, which lost one of its two main faces in a fire. Miners spent much of the last new year holiday helping to put out the fire and save the remaining face.

Call for forces' union

An MP has called for the introduction of trade unions in the *armed forces.*

Mr Ron Brown, Labour member for Edinburgh, Leith, said that with the anti-bullying campaign in progress, it seemed that any NCO charged with such an offence was almost assumed guilty before his court martial began.

"If trade unions were allowed to operate in the British armed services as they are in Sweden, injustices of the kind I suspect would not occur. If an individual who is badly treated happens to belong in the officers' quarters then he is protected by his own mafia. But the punters, from NCOs downwards, have no one to protect them."

Call for revision of city's disaster plans

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Emergency plans to deal with a disaster in London are inadequate, according to the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority.

The job of the authority is only to make civil defence *plans* for wartime and to deal with large chemical hazards, an official said.

It had no powers to coordinate action by local authorities and emergency services in the event of a disaster such as the failure of the Thames flood barrier or a Jumbo jet crash in a built up area.

Members of the three political groups on the authority are to meet ministers from the Home Office and the Department of the Environment *to* seek powers to make plans for civil emergencies, as the dissolved Greater London Council had.

Mr Charles O'Reilly, the authority's assistant chief emergency planning officer, said: "We cannot legally spend money on setting up a plan we would be able to implement".

The underground nerve centre at Kingsway, in central London, for handling a disaster is continued on annual licence from the Department of the Environment, which authorizes spending.

Mr O'Reilly said: "We want to get rid of this hand-to-*mouth* existence to prepare for the full range of hazards which face any major urban community".

The authority has responsibility to make off-site emergency plans for nine potentially hazardous installations in London. The responsibility is under the Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1984 (CIMAH), instituted after the chemical leak disaster at Seveso, Italy, in 1976.

Mr Geoffrey Brewer, chairman of the Civil Defence Committee of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, said: "The Government has given us the statutory reponsibility for planning for civil emergencies under Cimah but not for implementing the plans.

"Unless we have the emergency *co-ordinating centre on* a permanent basis as part of our plans, the Government will have to provide one itself. We shall be telling ministers that."

The Department of Transport has asked the Fire and Civil Defence Authority to maintain the pre-barrier flood plan but it cannot do so because it does not have a statutory duty under the Local Government Act.

If there were a disaster, out-of-date existing plans would have to be used. Emergency chiefs would go to the co-ordination centre in the old tramway tunnel in Kingsway, the original flood control centre before the Thames barrier was built.

There are radio communications, three different telephone switchboards, many direct lines and three studios

The centre would co-ordinate action via representatives there of the emergency services, military, and public utilities, *including* transport.

Labour to study idea for national member list

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Labour and trade union leaders are to consider next month the adoption of a national membership list as part of a series of moves to modernize the party's recruitment tech*niques and boost its income.*

The plan is expected to face opposition among Labour activists in the constituency parties, who are jealous of their rights to consider and approve membership applications, and from party members uneasy for security reasons about names being held on a centrally run, computerized list.

The proposal will be contained in a confidential paper being submitted to the party in January by Trade Unionists for Labour (TUFL), the powerful umbrella organization which brings together unions affiliated to the party and co-ordinates efforts to raise funds.

Party leaders may balk at *the prospect of a centrally run* list, under which members would have to join nationally rather than at local level. They may instead opt for an alternative under which there *would be a national mailing* list but one compiled from returns sent to headquarters *from the constituency parties.*

The proposals will be a discussed at a joint meeting between TUFL leaders and a new membership working party set up recently by Labour's national executive. It is headed by Mr Eddie Haigh, of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Its other members are Mrs Diana Jeuda, Mr Gordon Colling and *Mr Sam McCluskie.*

The working party will also consider other proposals put forward by the unions, aimed at turning Labour into a mass party.

They include the idea of cut-rate membership fees for trade union members who pay a political levy to the party.

Unions are critical of what they see as inadequate methods of recruiting party members locally and of collecting subscriptions. There are said to be numerous cases where membership dues have not been collected.

The unions believe that more people would apply for membership if they were able to write to the party nationally and that the party would find *it much easier to communicate* with its members if it had a national list.

Under the plan, party headquarters would simply inform the constituency parties of any new members recruited nationally.

More than five million trade unionists pay a political levy but only 200,000 of them are party members.

One of the unions may introduce a pilot scheme to see what effect a cut-rate membership fee would have.

There are divisions between the unions about the wisdom of a cut-rate fee. While some think it would give a big boost to membership, others fear that it would result in an overall loss of income.

Mr Sam McCluskie, the treasurer, is studying ways of boosting Labour's income.

Eating out at the sale queue

Mr Michael Brossamain and Mr Didier Charretter, of the Berkshire Hotel, serving lunch yesterday to Mr Struan Kerr, from Dumfries, who is raising money for charity by queueing for *Monday's sale at Debenhams in Oxford Street, London.* (Photograph: Alan Weller)

Pressure to study Bennett affair

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Friends and allies of the late Dr Gareth Bennett, the author of the *Crockford's* preface, are pressing for a full debate into the affair at the General Synod in February.

They claim an attempt will be made at the next meeting of the synod's standing committee in early January to "brush the issue under the carpet", by preventing a debate on Dr Bennett's criticisms of church policy.

They want the standing committee to authorize the distribution of a copy of the preface to synod members, many of whom have still not seen a full version.

Some members of the committee are understood to want the synod to confine any attention it may give to the matter to the technical questions surrounding the commissioning and publishing of the preface.

They are said to feel the criticisms in the preface were too wide ranging to be suitable for one formal debate and that the issues it raised have been thrashed out many times.

The committee's meeting will have a report of this month's policy sub-committee, which concentrated on the technical questions, particularly the role of Mr Derek Pattinson, the secretary general of the synod, and Mr James Shelley, the secretary of the Church Commissioners.

Normally that would come before the synod as part of the standing committee's regular report, with the debate strictly limited to the issues it raised. Any member trying to raise the wider issues could be ruled out of order.

After hearing from Mr Pattinson the policy sub-committee expressed confidence in him and Mr Shelley. Nevertheless the synod itself is expected to insist on knowing what that judgement was based on, as the sub-committee gave no details.

If a wider debate is allowed, some members are determined that the synod should address the question of the selection of bishops. The preface itself attracted most attention for its criticisms of the Archbishop of Canterbury's leadership, suggesting that Dr Robert Runcie was indecisive and moved the way the majority was moving.

The real sting came in a later section, which accused Dr Runcie of favouring friends and former colleagues for promotion in the church, as a result of which the House of Bishops was predominantly "liberal elitist" in outlook.

Runcie sermon, page 4

Drugs trafficking

Record cocaine seizures

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Customs and police drugs investigators expect to finish the year with a record increase of up to 400 per cent in cocaine seizures, totalling nearly half a tonne and worth nearly £100 million on the black market.

In 1986 cocaine seizures reached 106 kilos but this year three cases alone have easily exceeded that amount, bringing Customs and police investigators 301 kilos. One operation in Southampton last month yielded a European record of 208 kilos.

The 1987 figures, which include seizures amounting to more than 340 kilos, bear out some of the warnings from the United States that South American traffickers would turn to Europe as the American market became satiated.

In London, experts point ominously to the fact that the price of cocaine per kilo in Florida, the main importing centre, has dropped from $30,000 to $13,000.

They believe the traffickers will continue to try to reach *markets in Britain* and Europe, where they can still get a good price for their crops.

Farmers in the South American countries where the coca plant is grown are experimenting with species that can be cultivated in jungles and are more difficult to detect.

Heroin seizures are expected to drop by up to a third on the 1986 figure of 216 kilos, which represented a drop of 39 per cent on the previous year. The 1987 figures again show that the heroin epidemic could have peaked.

However, drugs intelligence officers are watching developments in Europe and North America, where the Chinese triad gangs are re-appearing with drugs from the Golden Triangle area of South-east Asia.

Triad leaders are also likely to move their operations from Hong Kong as the time for the return of the colony to the Peoples' Republic of China draws nearer, and it seems *that their presence has already* been noted in respect of heroin trafficking in the United States, Canada and Holland.

The Chinese have regained a foothold in the heroin market because the huge opium harvests in South-west Asia, the second main source of the drug, are no longer reaching the West in such great amounts.

Scargill tries to swell NUM ranks

By Tim Jones

In the middle of his campaign to be re-elected president of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Arthur Scargill has announced plans to recruit widows and retired pit-men to save the union from one of its greatest humiliations in 50 years.

Membership of the union is falling at an alarming rate. By next autumn's TUC congress, the union may not have enough members — 100,000 are needed — to justify an automatic place on the TUC's general council.

Union figures put its membership on December 31, 1986, at 104,941. Since then, it has lost at least 7,000 members and at least that many again will have left before the next congress.

A British Coal official said the decrease would probably *accelerate* because *of the limited* ban on overtime being imposed by the union in protest against the corporation's code of discipline.

Since the ban began 14 weeks ago, three pits, including Woolley Colliery, where Mr Scargill began his career, have closed.

If the union's official membership drops below the 100,000 mark, the NUM will have *to* take its chances in the card-vote ballot at the TUC congress which decides which of 11 smaller unions should be represented on the general council.

Mr Scargill has enough enemies, who partly blame him for the failure of the Labour Party *to* be elected, for the NUM to be relegated to the sidelines.

To stave off that catastrophe, the union is inviting widows and retired miners to become *non-voting members.*

Mr John Walsh, who is standing against Mr Scargill in the NUM's presidential election, said: "Our union was a powerful voice in the TUC.

"Now we have little or no involvement. We used to be respected as a union. But with a record like ours, we are in danger of losing the confidence of even our staunchest supporters in other unions."

£23m drug reward eludes the Yard

By Michael Horsnell

A problem has emerged over the protracted saga of Scotland Yard's £23 million windfall from the United States for helping American drug investigators to bring smugglers to justice.

The reward is a share of assets confiscated by the American courts after an Anglo-American purge of illicit bank accounts *held by smugglers* in the West Indies.

The accounts were discovered by the Yard's special task force, established to trace the proceeds of the £26 million *Brink's-Mat* gold bullion robbery.

Senior detectives passed vital information to the Drug Enforcement Agency in Washington, which helped the American authorities to launch Operation Man in Fort Lauderdale.

However, the British Treasury says the Yard's share of money forfeited by order of the American courts should go straight to the Exchecuer

As talks between police and officials at the Treasury and Home Office resume, Drug Enforcement Agency sources indicate that the windfall is no certainty.

It is no longer assumed in Washington that the American Attorney General will sanction such a pay-out.

Under legislation introduced last year, American *authorities are empowered to* share out the confiscated proceeds of drug smugglers between law enforcement agencies.

A Drug Enforcement Agency source in Washington said: "The decision whether foreign law enforcement agencies can benefit has to be made by the Attorney General, and that is still under discussion. There is certainly no cheque in the mail."

Employers support skills test

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

Nearly 1,500 employers are testing job applicants with the help of a do-it-yourself skills kit designed by the Associated Examining Board.

The board has designed the test so that it can be marked on the spot by employers instead of being sent to professional examiners as with other external tests.

"Skillcheck" is a one-hour test in three parts designed for applicants to Youth Training Schemes. It is intended to check their basic literacy and numeracy and their understanding of simple tasks such as map reading and relaying messages.

Some employers are using the test for long-term unemployed adults. In Coventry, the Chamber of Commerce *and Industry's training* department finds it invaluable for testing skills among older people applying for job training schemes.

Trainees are asked to do simple sums, such as adding two-thirds to one-third. The board says a "surprisingly common error" is to add separately the top and bottom parts of the fractions, an indication of a failure to cope with simple arithmetic.

It also includes simple assignments such as comprehending a set of instruc*tions and interpreting* a road map. Mrs Wendy Brown, training manager at Coventry Chamber of Commerce, said: "We find literacy and numeracy an absolutely horrendous problem.

"The advantage of this test is that it is easy for us to mark ourselves as soon as the person has taken it, so we can *discuss their problems* with them or put them straight on to a literacy course."

CBI seeks European time unity

The Confederation of British Industry is to push hard to get Britain's clocks synchronized with those in the rest of the EEC.

The CBI is concerned that for 11 months of the year British businessmen lose up to four hours a day when doing business in Europe.

Although a recent survey of CBI members showed they preferred to keep things as they are, Sir David Nickson, the organization's president, said: "With closer links with Europe, how can we continue to work by different time?"

Mr Lionel Altman, chairman of Equity and General Insurance, argues in *CBI News* for Double British Summer Time.

The CBI rejects the argument that people in Scotland would suffer from long dark mornings if the clocks remained "forward" all winter. It says the Scandinavian countries keep to Continental time and they have very much shorter daylight hours than Britain in the winter.

Spotlight on tourism in 2001

The Government has ordered a survey of the rapidly growing British tourism industry so it can plan for the next century. The survey, to be carried out by an independent consultancy company, will be completed by May.

Tourism in Britain is worth about £15 billion a year and employs about 1.4 million people. The review, ordered by the Department of Employment and the British Tourist Authority, seeks to establish a statistical framework for policy decisions and marketing.

The review will be for all British tourist boards and will examine the current situation. Public and private sector tourism representatives at national, regional and local level will be consulted.

The review will: categorize the main groups of users of tourism statistics; identify statistics needed; analyse existing government, national tourist board and other main statistical sources; examine cost-effectiveness and revenue raising; make recommendations on priorities and possible improvements.

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Pioneer scheme to have Aids children adopted

By Kerry Gill

Three children whose life expectancy is uncertain because they carry traces of Aids antibodies are about to be adopted in a pioneering project.

Lothian region's social work department has previously found foster parents for babies at risk of developing the Aids virus but earlier this year it decided to try to have the children adopted.

Edinburgh has the largest single number of sero-positive children in Britain. It recently emerged that one mother, a reformed drug addict, had five children of which one had developed Aids and two others were carrying the virus.

Since 1985 about 39 babies *have been identified at the* City Hospital, Edinburgh, as being antibody positive; nine have been placed in care because of family breakdown rather than because of Aids.

Most of those carrying the virus in Edinburgh have injected drugs. With so many being sexually active, there has been a disproportionate number of children born with Aids antibodies.

Some of the babies could develop Aids but, according to Mr Gerry O'Hara, regional officer for children and families, foster parents have been keen to learn more about adopting them.

Of the nine in care, three have returned to their families, one has been adopted and two are being matched with parents.

Mr O'Hara said: "Foster parents offer very short-term care but we have been finding that a lot have become particularly attached to the children. I can only think that *the kids are particularly precious* because of their uncertain future."

As many as half of those children born with Aids antibodies develop the full disease and possibly die within a comparatively short time. Because of the unusual nature of the project other authorities in Britain, which realize they may face similar problems, go to Lothian for advice.

Mr O'Hara said his authority was unprepared when the problem became apparent some two years ago.

Would-be foster parents are given intensive training and educated on the nature of the disease. There are about a dozen ready to take the children whose identities are kept secret because of the prejudice and ignorance surrounding Aids. One foster parent told Mr O'Hara: "If people in my street knew the baby had this problem, I would be thrown out".

Mr O'Hara said: "One of the most impressive things I have ever seen is the affection they show towards these children. *The parents have a quite* fearless approach to them."

Naturally, a constant worry is that a relatively minor ailment might be something much worse.

The parents get support and advice from Dr Jacqueline Mok, consultant paediatrician at the City Hospital, where the children are monitored.

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صكنا من الاجل

NHS offered £5m for private sector deals to cut waiting

By Jill Sherman and Craig Seton

The Government is to set aside £5 million of next year's fund to cut health service waiting lists for deals with private hospitals and "internal market" schemes.

Health authorities have been asked to put in specific bids by January 20 to meet one of these criteria for a share of the earmarked money, part of next year's £30 million fund.

The initiative is an extension of a £500,000 pilot scheme which was set up in Trent and West Midlands last month to boost private health care and to test its cost effectiveness.

The private health insurance company, BUPA, was called in to negotiate bargain contracts with private hospitals in the two regions in an attempt to take 1,000 patients off waiting lists by April 1. Each region was given £240,000 to pay for health service patients to be treated in private hospitals.

However West Midlands health authority has used only £63,000 on private schemes because it has found that the private sector is up to one third more expensive.

Mr David Hands, West Midlands director of administration, said that even after BUPA had negotiated cut-price schemes the health service proved cheaper. His figures show that the cost of a hernia operation in the health service is £250 compared with £370-£390 in the private sector.

Similarly, a hysterectomy costs £800 in the health service and £1,200 privately. A hip replacement would cost £1,000 under the health service and £1,700 privately.

"We agreed to carry out the pilot scheme on condition that we would use the private sector only if it was cheaper and that we could have some control over which consultants did the work", Mr Hands said yesterday.

"We did not want to encourage consultants who did not fulfil their health service contracts to do more private work."

The region has agreed to press ahead with contracting out 120 general surgery operations, including hysterectomies, varicose veins and hernias to a private hospital at a cost of £63,000, but Mr Hands admitted that even in this case the cost would be about £70 to £80 more expensive for case than the health service.

Although the £240,000 was specifically earmarked for private sector projects, West Midlands has been allowed to use the rest of the money to save the kidney dialysis service at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

After a public outcry over cuts in the health service ministers said that West Midlands could divert money from its waiting list fund.

Meanwhile Trent regional health authority has started referring 600 patients from five districts to private hospitals for operations such as hip replacements.

The failure of the West Midlands scheme has prompted ministers to test private sector projects against schemes to sell spare capacity within the health service.

Hospitals with spare theatres, or closed wards which they cannot afford to keep open, could sell their expertise to another district.

Some districts have already started this type of scheme. St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, for example, has carried out ENT operations for Newham district health authority.

The idea, which could develop into an extended internal market where both the health service and the private sector could compete for business, has already won the support of the Prime Minister and Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services.

Clampdown on drinkers

Breathtested drivers jailed

By Andrew Morgan

Drivers are spending the Christmas holiday behind bars after they were either found guilty of drinking and driving or accused of the offence.

A Nottingham man is in custody after he was accused of driving with excess alcohol in his bloodstream and magistrates refused him bail.

Colin Hartley, aged 28, from Wollaton, Nottingham was stopped on Wednesday night when he was caught in a police speed trap. He appeared before magistrates in Nottingham on Christmas Eve and was refused bail.

This year Nottinghamshire police stopped more vehicles than any other force, with a rate of one in 220.

Magistrates in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, fined three people for driving over the limit and ordered them to spend until 10 am yesterday in the cells.

Inspector Jim Cox, of Dunstable police, said the magistrates' actions had surprised him. "We had no idea the magistrates were going to do it", he said. "I think the three people were rather shocked as well".

Thames Valley Police said more than twice as many breath tests were carried out between 6am last Saturday and 6am on Wednesday than in the same period last year, with those proving positive rising from 74 to 95. In the same period, the number of injury accidents fell from 106 to 64.

Strathclyde Police, who cover Greater Glasgow and whose area takes in about half the population of Scotland, said 22 drivers supplied positive breath tests on Christmas Eve compared with just 11 on the same day last year.

However, police said many more people were tested this year.

Strathclyde police have set up road blocks over the holiday period.

Anti-drink driving publicity appeared to have a profound effect in Edinburgh yesterday. Police said they had stopped 11 drivers and everyone of them supplied negative tests.

Five people died in Christmas Eve road accidents in the north of England and a boy aged two, Matthew Featherstone, was yesterday in the intensive care unit of Grimsby General Hospital after a car driven by his mother was in a head-on crash near Grimsby, South Humberside.

Police in Greater Manchester are trying to identify the driver of a Ford Cortina lying unconscious in hospital after a two-car crash in Cromwell Road, Salford, in which a man died and a woman was seriously injured.

Motorists were warned yesterday to beware of bogus policemen demanding on-the-spot fines. A young woman driver was stopped by two men wearing police-style anoraks in Havant Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire. The men, driving an unmarked light-coloured car, signalled her to stop and demanded an on-the-spot fine of £25 for exceeding the 40 mph speed limit.

The woman, who recently passed her driving test, paid but later realized her mistake and told police.

Drunks in the streets but not on the roads

By Sam Kiley

Drunken youths threw bricks through shop windows, brawled in British Home Stores and outside churches, but stayed out of their cars and off the roads in Brighton on Christmas Eve.

I was with traffic police patrols from the T6 area, which covers most of south and west East Sussex, from 3pm on Christmas Eve to 2am on Christmas morning. In that time they breathtested six drivers (including three involved in accidents), but none of them was positive.

Sergeant Brian Prior, in patrol car T609, said: "In the 1960s we used to stop people doing 90mph through town.

"When we opened the door they fell out on to the road. On my worst Christmas Eve we had five fatalities. This year our campaign does seem to have worked."

However, there were drink-related accidents in the T6 area on Christmas Eve, including a death in Horsham.

Inspector Roger Heard, traffic branch commander of the T6 area, said: "There has always been a bias of drink drivers in the country areas, people think they can sneak down the back roads and avoid us. Their problem is, we use the back roads too."

● Merseyside police said yesterday there were 13 positive breathtests on Christmas Eve compared to 18 last year.

Inspector Ken Keys, the force control room supervisor for Merseyside police, said: "Last year 19 people were injured and two killed, this year four people were injured and none killed".

RAF in flight to save life of young soldier

An RAF plane flew to the Falkland Islands yesterday to save the life of a serviceman.

The young soldier, who was too ill to be flown back to Britain, was given life-saving dialysis treatment on a kidney machine airlifted from Britain in the Tristar plane.

The aircraft, carrying an RAF medical evacuation team, left Brize Norton in Oxfordshire on Christmas Eve and stopped to refuel on Ascension Island.

It arrived at 11.31 am on Christmas Day, making it one of the fastest flights to the Falklands from Britain.

The condition of the serviceman, a rifleman from the Royal Green Jackets who suffered kidney failure, is described as serious.

Elderly sisters' killer stole Christmas gifts

The killer of two elderly stepsisters stole their Christmas presents and ransacked their corner shop, police in Birmingham said yesterday.

Supt Martin Burton said detectives found ripped wrapping papers and discarded labels when they searched the store after the bodies were discovered.

Police found Miss Alice Rowley, aged 87, and Edna, aged 77, after being called to the shop in Greswolde Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, by neighbours.

The women, well known and liked in the area, had not been seen since Tuesday. Their bodies were found late on Wednesday.

Miss Alice Rowley had been strangled and Miss Edna Rowley smothered in what the head of West Midlands CID, Det Chief Supt Jim Byrne, called a "sickening" attack.

Police, who think the women were killed after a burglary went wrong, were last night trying to trace the women's final movements before they were attacked, and appealed to anyone in the neighbourhood who saw anything suspicious to get in touch.

They also appealed for help from relatives to work out what was missing from the store, which the women had run for about 50 years.

Mr Burton said the forensic scientists' search of the shop, and the flat above where the sisters lived, was continuing. Sixty-five officers were involved in the hunt.

Yemen says brides can come home

By Nicholas Beeston

North Yemeni authorities have told Britain that they will facilitate the reunion of a mother with her two daughters, who claim they were sold by their father as teenage brides and have been kept against their will in a remote region of North Yemen.

A Foreign Office source, commenting yesterday on contacts this week between the British embassy in Sana'a and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the Yemenis were "quite happy" to make sure the mother could see her daughters and that they would even help the girls to leave the country "provided the families agreed".

Zana and Nadia Muhsen from Birmingham claimed in an interview that their father, Mr Muthana Muhsen, tricked them into going to North Yemen on holiday and then sold them to tribesmen for £1,300 each. Mr Muhsen has denied that his daughters were married against their will.

The girls have dual British-Yemeni nationality.

Their mother Mrs Miriam Ali has been campaigning for their return and may go to visit them in Yemen before the new year. The Foreign Office could not confirm that the girls were planning to visit Britain with their husbands and children.

Girl returns home to a new lease of life

By Ruth Gledhill

After nearly 12 years of constant illness, Jocelyne Dinsley, aged 14, was yesterday celebrating a new lease of life after arriving home at Northolt, west London, from Harefield Hospital, near her home, where she received a new heart and lungs.

Nearly 250 miles away in Tawstock, Devon, Mr Maurice Parker, a businessman, was celebrating the Christmas he did not expect to see. Jocelyne's heart was beating beside his own.

Jocelyne, shown above with two Harefield staff, Dorothy Jones (left) and Tania Rowles (right), was born with cystic fibrosis. She had a heart-lung transplant at Harefield in September after spending the last 12 years of her life in and out of hospital because of the serious damage to her lungs.

One hour into the six-hour operation, Mr Magdi Yacoub, the surgeon, asked her parents if her healthy heart could be used to save the life of Mr Parker, who had slipped into unconsciousness three days before and was not expected to live.

Mr Yacoub transplanted Jocelyne's heart next to Mr Parker's where it is acting as a "piggy back" booster.

Both patients are well on the way to recovery and have become firm friends. Flowers from Mr Parker were waiting for Jocelyne when she arrived home on Christmas Eve.

Mr Parker said: "We are getting on well. I was sinking very, very fast before the operation. I did not expect to live another day, let alone to live until Christmas."

Before the operation, Jocelyne could scarcely climb a set of stairs. The first thing she did on arriving home was run upstairs and collect her presents.

(Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

— Portfolio Gold —

The perfect Christmas present befell Mrs Jane Hall, from Hitchin, Hertfordshire, when she was told that she had won £6,000 in the Portfolio Gold competition.

Mrs Hall, a mother of three, plans to give one third to charity and spend the rest on a family holiday to the Mediterranean.

She said: "We have only really made it to France before, for the very good reason that we could not afford to go anywhere else".

Mrs Hall said it made a wonderful Christmas surprise but her win was too late to alter arrangements for Christmas Day, when she and her husband were entertaining friends from New Zealand.

Mrs Hall shared the £12,000 prize with Mr John Daley, of Cotswold Way, Enfield, north London, who has decided to spend some of his £6,000 win on a holiday in Canada and divide the remainder between his two children, Peter and Judith, and their families.

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ONE COULD END UP WITH MORE THAN ONE BARGAINED FOR

[illegible]

A glimpse of life in 1957

Cabinet documents chart recovery from the trauma of Suez

By David Walker

Minutes and files of the Cabinet of 1957 will be released to the public on Wednesday under the 30-year rule. The documents will chart the recovery of the Government, led by Sir Anthony Eden, from the trauma of the Suez expedition.

But the documents released from the Public Record Office at Kew have already been extensively weeded.

Intelligence material has been rigorously excluded and most of the leading figures have died, so there will be little scope for personal embarrassment, though memoranda by Mr Enoch Powell or Lord Carr, then junior ministers, will be worth hunting for.

What is on offer at Kew is nonetheless a treasure trove.

The year of 1957 began with the nation recovering from the Suez crisis. It ended, not quite with a bang – though a nuclear accident at Calder Hall on the Cumbrian coast came close to that – but with a new Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, in office and the nation looking upwards at the first man-made satellite in orbit round the Earth, the Russians' Sputnik.

Mr Anthony Seldon, co-director of the Institute of Contemporary British History, believes the opening of the archives is unlikely to reveal any big secrets.

"It won't be a vintage year, like 1956 with its details of the run-up to the Suez crisis. But that won't detract from the interest in the government papers that will become available. It's the detail they provide that is the exciting thing, a chance – at last – to test what the journalists and the pundits said that year."

It was a year of premium bonds, Communists in the trade unions and Aneurin Bevan's famous speech about not sending a foreign secretary naked into the conference chamber.

It was the year the decision was taken in principle to end conscription into the Armed Forces, when the medical link between smoking and lung cancer was conclusively shown for the first time, when the IRA began to campaign in Ulster, when Ghana was given its independence and the blueprint for Military Intelligence was drawn up. Above all it was the year of a single politician, Harold Macmillan.

Macmillan took over from Eden in January, and reorganized the Cabinet. For two months he had the services of the Tory grandee Lord Salisbury, before he went in disagreement over the handling of the agitation in Cyprus in favour of unification with Greece.

When he took over, Macmillan spoke to the nation on the then Home Service. In those fruity Edwardian tones he declared it a nonsense to talk of Britain's decline as a world power.

But at that very moment – the archives will tell all – he was reading the papers that began the dismemberment of the British Empire. Later that year he broadcast again. The country, which till then had been known as the Gold Coast, was now Ghana. Ethiopia and Liberia aside, it was the first black independent nation, imbued (they hoped that year) with British respect for parliamentary institutions.

Macmillan, too, knew full well how tenuous Britain's claim to membership of the club of world powers was becoming. In March he met with President Dwight Eisenhower of the United States in Bermuda. With unmatched skill he played the card of their wartime comradeship (when Ike commanded American forces in North Africa and Macmillan was the resident British minister), cultivating a sense that Britain still sat, a nuclear power, at the top table in international affairs.

Yet a month after that meeting he published a Defence White Paper that signalled British withdrawal from its world role. Conscription was to end. The professional army that remained would keep its watch on the Rhine.

In a real sense, 1957 was the gateway to the 1960s. Those years are characterized as the decade of permissiveness, when public morality shifted several notches. In fact the seeds of change were sown in the 1950s. The Cabinet archives will disclose the discussions that took place when Lord Wolfenden produced his report – not acted on for several years – recommending a more liberal stance towards the private conduct of adult homosexuals.

The year also saw the introduction of a Bill to end hanging, finally carried through Sidney Silverman's Private Member's Bill in 1965.

In the background, society was changing. Growing numbers of young people were cultivating their own music and their own styles: shock waves were caused when BBC Television broadcast Pete Murray introducing a programme called *Six Five Special*.

Innocence was lost that year. In October, despite heavy censorship, a bad accident occurred at the Calder Hall nuclear power plant, later named Windscale and now known as Sellafield. Suddenly, that bright promise in the untapped power of the atom was revealed as fatally hazardous.

Families paid for Christmas 1957 with £12 weekly wage

By David Cross

The typical family tucking into the first lashings of cold turkey 30 years ago were enjoying a rare and expensive meal.

At a time when the average manual worker earned £12.58 a week, a 10lb dressed and pre-packed English bird from the corner butcher cost £3.75, the equivalent of nearly £32 at today's prices. This week a similar turkey was on sale at Harrods for £12.50.

The accompanying bottle of French white wine was a relative luxury too. An Entre-deux-Mers from Cockburn and Campbell cost 37½p or £3.19 at today's prices, compared with less than £2 now. Even a bottle of cheap Algerian burgundy was hardly a bargain at 27.5p (£2.34 now).

Fortified wines and spirits were, comparatively, even more expensive. A bottle of light Amontillado sherry was 95p (about £8), choice vintage port 97½p (£8.30), and Scotch, gin and rum £1.55 (£13.17).

Christmas puddings were nearly all home-made in 1957 but, for the lazy or the rich, a 2lb offering, made with rum, brandy and fresh oranges and lemons from the kitchens of the Bay Tree bakery in Salisbury, could be bought for 54p (£4.60).

The famous "Royal Kingston" Christmas cake from the Oak Lounge Patisserie in Kingston on Thames and decorated with almonds, walnuts, angelica and cherries and "steeped in rum" was available at £1.25 (£10.63) for the standard size or £2.50 (£21.25) for the large version.

The most popular toys for children were, as ever, cuddly animals. A koala from Liberty's cost £1.58 (£13.43) and a novelty brown bear made of beaver lamb fur with a "musical inside", which played as its head turned, was £3.73 (£31.70).

For the older, mechanically minded child, a 3ft Triang constructional crane was on sale at Hamleys for £6.97 (£59.25) and a new-fangled electric friction-drive car for 85p (£7.23).

One of the most expensive toys available alongside flexible Noddys and Muffin the Mule marionettes was the "Rolls-Royce" of prams, a Silver Cross model, available at Harrods for £14.38 (£122.23). An unbreakable vinyl doll with elegant nylon legs from the same store cost £9.45 (£80.33).

At a time when most radios used valves, a Perdio "pocket" transistor radio with a printed circuit and measuring nearly 5¾ in by 3¼ in by 1¼ in in red, ivory or a combination of both colours could be bought for £23.05 (£195.93).

For "the friend who had everything" the ideal gift on sale at booksellers was "the original and unique" *London Diary* for 1958. Complete with a detachable address book, the slim bound volume replete with "charmingly humorous" sketches cost £1.05 (£8.93). Copies of selected speeches by His Royal Highness The Prince Philip were more of a bargain at 63p (£5.36).

One of the most unusual presents even for hunting fanatics was a set of two double sided gramophone records, containing "the sound of the horn, the cry of the hounds and the voice of the huntsman". Attractively boxed with an illustrated book entitled *Hunting by Ear*, the set cost £2.25 (£19.13).

Even if many of these items were out of reach of most families 30 years ago, they could take heart from the fact that they were considerably better off than the 750 inmates of Brixton prison in London. Their Christmas allowance in 1957 was a single Christmas card with free postage supplied by the local Rotary Club and an extra 5p each to be spent on cigarettes or sweets on top of their weekly earnings of between 8p and 30p.

YOU WON'T FIND A FINER TEA

Serpentine lures the swimmers

The weather was a sunny 8C (46F) yesterday for the All Year Swimming Club's regular dip in the Serpentine in Hyde Park,

Saboteurs likely at 100 fox hunts

By Ruth Gledhill

Thousands of hunt saboteurs are planning to disrupt more than a hundred fox hunts today.

They will use horns to lure the hounds from their quarry and aniseed sprays to mask the scent of the fox. They say they are prepared to face the possibility of arrest.

Miss Angela Majennik, of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, said yesterday: "We don't see the point in conventional methods of campaigning. Why protest when we can save the animal now, using tried and tested tactics to get between the hounds and the fox?"

Miss Majennik added: "Tradition makes this one of the biggest days in the hunting calender, and we are determined to stop them ruining the season of goodwill by killing for kicks at Christmas".

A new information and legal aid service for farmers and landowners will be launched today by the League Against Cruel Sports. It is offering the free advice service to anyone anxious to prevent foxhunts from trespassing on their property.

Flood chaos

Flooding caused by a burst water main brought chaos to streets in the Old Swan area of Liverpool yesterday. Roads were closed by water up to a foot deep and shops were flooded.

Theft charges

Six London postmen based at a sorting office in Southwark, south London, who were accused of conspiring to steal postal packets, were remanded on £500 bail each until January 21, at Horseferry Road magistrates' court on Thursday.

Woman killed

Four children have been taken into care after their mother was stabbed to death at their home in Park South, Swindon, Wiltshire, on Thursday. Police are questioning a man.

Dog adopted

A labrador dog which spent days on a river bank until its owner was found drowned has been adopted by neighbours of the dead man, Mr Michael Andruszko, a wartime RAF pilot, who lived at Marston Moor, near Bungay, Norfolk.

Police move

Det Supt Derek Todd, from Alyth, Tayside, is to take command of Scotland Yard's Drug Squad from Commander Roy Penrose, who is to move to the Serious Crime Squad.

Death charge

A woman is expected to appear in court at Lancaster today charged in connection with the death of Mr David Green, who was found dead in a house in Christie Avenue, Morecambe.

Plea for airport at Bristol

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Britain's next main airport should be built in the West Country, preferably near Bristol, a pilots' organization says.

The Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators is pressing the Government to take urgent action to provide more airport capacity to cope with the boom in air traffic.

"In the past, in any given area, growth of population, industry and commerce have not reflected the siting of new airports", the guild says.

Instead, every attempt to provide the extra runways has met with opposition from pressure groups and the best solution has been blocked.

"Now that there is a private company operating all airports there is a chance for a more logical approach to be applied to development strategy", Captain Paul Wilson, the guild's clerk, said.

"Competition for funds from airfields operated by the company must not deny the investment needed in new airfields."

A new airport must be near enough to big centres of population to provide a work force as well as a local catchment area, which Bristol provides, the guild believes.

"It is well served by road and rail communications", Captain Wilson said. He is arguing strongly also that an airport in the Bristol area would ease the congestion in airspace close to London, especially on transatlantic flights, by allowing aircraft to fly in through comparatively clear skies to the West and land almost unhindered.

"Sufficient land must be acquired at the outset to ensure that two runways can be constructed as well as suitable terminals and maintenance area", Captain Wilson said.

The Civil Aviation Authority is pressing the Government to approve a new airport to ease the crisis in capacity which is affecting London airports.

It carried out a study to see if any extra capacity could be squeezed into Heathrow and Gatwick but concluded that although a small increase in the number of flights may be possible, nothing worthwhile could be achieved until a new airport was built.

Anglo-Irish agreement

Dublin plans talks speed-up

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Irish Government is considering ways of making the centrepiece of the Anglo-Irish agreement more effective when the operation of the joint ministerial conference is reviewed next year.

It wants to improve the efficiency of conference meetings by making it a less cumbersome body attended by fewer officials from Britain and the Irish Republic.

Officials who have attended the 15 meetings of the conference since the Anglo-Irish agreement was signed two years ago believe a smaller body could conduct business more speedily.

They also believe that with fewer Civil Servants from both sides attending meetings which have been held in Belfast and London, problems could be discussed in greater depth and a closer rapport developed between British and Irish ministers.

Among those attending are ministers, senior Civil Servants and information officers. The number is swollen when Sir John Hermon, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and Mr Eamonn Doherty, commissioner of the Irish Police, are present to discuss cross-border security.

Both sides are convinced, however, that it has proved a worthwhile body for discussions.

Under the terms of the agreement, the inter-governmental joint ministerial conference, chaired by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, was set up to deal with political and security matters, the administration of justice and the promotion of cross-border co-operation.

Regular and frequent meetings were to be held and a secretariat of Irish and British Civil Servants was set up in Belfast.

There have been 15 meetings of the conference but only four since Mr Charles Haughey was returned to power in March, leading some to suspect that both governments are anxious to ensure that Unionists are given fewer reasons for remaining obdurate.

However both governments are now turning their attention to Article 11, which allows for a review of the working of the conference.

Although most Unionists believe the agreement is to be reviewed, Article 11 makes it clear that it is the working of the conference that is looked at to see whether there should be change in the scope and nature of its activities.

Some Unionists believe the review clause should be seized upon as a means of breaking the political deadlock to allow majority and minority communities a say in conference deliberations.

The two Unionist leaders, insist that negotiations on a replacement or alternative to the deal cannot begin until the agreement has ceased to be implemented and the operation of the secretariat halted.

Electricity safeguard for anglers

By India Knight

A solution is in sight to the increasing problem of anglers being electrocuted by power cables which sometimes hang as low as 17ft over the banks of rivers, canals and lakes.

An inquest will be told next month of an inexpensive safety precaution which could have saved the life of Mr Ray Carter, an Oxford angler, who died when 33,00 volts seared down his carbon fibre rod while fishing close to naked cables.

It is the increasing popularity of highly conductive carbon rods which has escalated the danger.

The safety precaution involves using cable insulated with a thick coating of PVC, commonly used where pylons straddle densely wooded areas.

The first angling "black spot" to benefit is likely to be near waters run by Tring anglers' club, Hertfordshire.

Mr Richard Walsh, Eastern Electricity Board planning engineer, said that insulating the wires cost approximately £6 a metre, "relatively inexpensive".

Mr John Loftus, British head of the Japanese-owned Shimano company, which markets a 45-foot, £2,000 carbon fibre rod, said yesterday: "This is welcome news.

"In the meantime everything must be done to alert anglers to the dangers. All our publicity, technical leaflets and rods will now carry graphic warnings.

"Angling clubs must do all they can to steer fishermen away from the danger spots.

Christmas messages

Queen's plea to men of violence

The full text of the Queen's Christmas message reads:

"Sooner or later we all become aware of the passing of the years, but every now and then we get a sharp reminder that time is moving on rather quicker than we expected. This happened to me last month when we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. I was very touched that so many of you were kind enough to send messages of good wishes.

"There is no point in regretting the passage of time. Growing older is one of the facts of life, and it has its own compensations. Experience should help us to take a more balanced view of events and to be more understanding about the foibles of human nature.

"Like everyone else, I learn about what is going on in the world from the media, but I am fortunate to have another source of information. Every day hundreds of letters come to my desk, and I make a point of reading as many of them as I possibly can.

"The vast majority are a pleasure to read. There are also sad ones from people who want help, there are interesting ones from people who want to tell me what they think about current issues or who have suggestions to make about changing the way things are done.

"Others are full of frank advice for me and my family and some of them do not hesitate to be critical.

"I value all these letters for keeping me in touch with your views and opinions, but there are a few letters which reflect the darker side of human nature.

"It is only too easy for passionate loyalty to one's own country, race or religion, or even to one's favourite football club, to be corroded into intolerance, bigotry and ultimately into violence.

"We have witnessed some frightening examples of this in recent years.

"All too often intolerance creates the resentment and anger which fill the headlines and divide communities and nations and even families.

"From time to time we also see some inspiring examples of tolerance.

"Mr Gordon Wilson, whose daughter Marie lost her life in the horrifying explosion at Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday, impressed the whole world by the depth of his forgiveness.

"His strength, and that of his wife, and the courage of their daughter, came from their Christian conviction.

"All of us will echo their prayer that out of the personal tragedies of Enniskillen may come a reconciliation between the communities.

"There are striking illustrations of the way in which the many different religions can come together in peaceful harmony.

"Each year I try to attend the Commonwealth Day inter-faith Observance at Westminster Abbey. At that service all are united in their willingness to pray for the common good.

"This is a symbol of mutual tolerance and I find it most encouraging. Of course it is right that people should hold their beliefs and their faiths strongly and sincerely, but perhaps we should also have the humility to accept that, while we each have a right to our own convictions, others have a right to theirs too.

"I am afraid that the Christmas message of goodwill has usually evaporated by the time Boxing Day is over.

"This year I hope we will continue to remember the many innocent victims of violence and intolerance and the suffering of their families. Christians are taught to love their neighbours, not just at Christmas, but all the year round.

"I hope we will all help each other to have a happy Christmas and, when the New Year comes, resolve to work for tolerance and understanding between all people.

"Happy Christmas to you all."

Leading article, page 9

Archbishop prays for the victims

In his Christmas sermon in Canterbury Cathedral yesterday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, called for prayers for all those over whom a shadow had fallen in the past year, whether by war or famine, unemployment or poverty, or bereavement and sorrow.

He mentioned especially the victims and their families involved in the Zeebrugge ferry disaster, the Hungerford massacre, the Enniskillen IRA bomb and the King's Cross fire.

"Their first Christmas in the absence of someone dearly loved will have a particular sadness for them – as sad, perhaps, as in the days immediately following their loss", he said.

He asked for prayers for Mr Terry Waite, his special representative, for Mr John McCarthy, the British television journalist, and for all other hostages held in the Lebanon.

"I believe that they will sense somehow that our prayers are with them – that has been the experience of others in their situation – and that they will know that their families and friends hold them constantly in their love."

The archbishop's theme was the safety and danger of loving, saying: "A world in which love was unknown would be a world with less pain and sorrow than our own. The more we reflect on the dangers, the risks and the pain of loving, the more remarkable it appears that you or I or anyone else should dare to love at all.

"Yet we do, despite all the dangers, all the risks, all the pain involved: we accept that loving and being loved is the best thing we can imagine – it is our calling and our destiny."

It was because we loved that we felt sorrow, and the depth of sorrow was proportionate to the depth of love. "It is strange that love, which we count life's greatest enrichment and blessing, is also the cause of its deepest sadness.

"Romantic and sentimental notions of love as no more than a sense of pleasure and delight are much mistaken. Love is much more serious.

"Just as human love can become distorted so too can the image of God's love presented to the world. The clear message of God's all embracing love can be exploited or abused", the archbishop said.

As an instance of the way love can go wrong, he cited recent publicity surrounding child abuse.

"We have become sadly aware during this year how tragically the grace and beauty of children may evoke in parents that distortion of love which we call lust. The helpless child can fall victim not to our care and protection but to exploitation, abuse and cruelty. Sometimes children are not the world's treasures; they are its pawns, manoeuvred by adults for their own advantage, satisfaction or prestige."

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Contras accused of truce violation

Managua (Reuter) – President Ortega of Nicaragua yesterday accused US-backed Contra rebels of shattering the country's first-ever Christmas truce by attacking a peasant co-operative in the centre of the country.

Señor Ortega gave no details of Thursday's attack but other officials said at least one child was wounded in the raid, on a farm co-operative near Villa Sandino, 100 miles east of Managua. The President made the announcement during a Christmas Day visit to a children's hospital in Managua, where many victims of past Contra attacks are recovering. A Defence Ministry spokesman said Sandinista forces were still abiding by the truce despite the violation.

● **MIAMI:** The breakdown in Santo Domingo of a second round of peace talks between Nicaragua and the Contras has been followed by recriminations from both sides (Alan Tomlinson writes). Nicaragua accused the rebels of wanting the talks to fail to ensure continued US military support; the Contras blamed Managua's refusal to talk face-to-face.

Airliner diverted

Copenhagen (Reuter) – An SAS airliner returned to Copenhagen on Christmas Eve after being mysteriously redirected over Soviet air space.

The airliner, a DC10 carrying 15 crew and 221 passengers, was on a non-stop scheduled flight to Bangkok, Thailand, when Soviet air traffic controllers rerouted it over the Aral Lake, some 930 miles south-east of Moscow, an SAS spokesman said.

They ordered it to alter its flight path and land in Moscow, but the pilot returned to Copenhagen.

Guerrillas under fire

Agartala, India (Reuter) – India and Burma have started joint counter-insurgency operations against rebel tribesmen and at least seven rebels have been killed in the past week.

Officials said two Burmese soldiers had also died during operations against Naga rebels fighting for independence from India. The operations followed the visit by the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi to Rangoon earlier this month.

Naga rebels are active in Tripura and Manipur states, and have jungle bases inside the Burmese border.

Row over ferry victim

Manila (Reuter) – A quarrel started in a mortuary when two families both claimed the disfigured body of a woman as relatives tried to identify the victims of the Philippines ferry disaster. Only 253 bodies have been recovered, although 2,000 people are feared to have died when the ferry Dona Paz and a tanker sank after colliding off Mindoro island.

"She is mine and I will fight anyone in court who says she isn't mine," Mr Adriano Jordan, a 38-year-old farmer, said yesterday as he waited to claim the badly burnt body of a woman he said was his wife, Carelina. Mr Jordan first tried to claim the body on Christmas Eve, but another family came and said the body was theirs. Both families said that they recognized the woman by her gold tooth.

Minister resigns

Dhaka (Reuter) – The Bangladesh Finance Minister, Mr Muhammad Sayeduzzaman, has resigned, but the Government has denied that an economic setback caused by a month of unrest forced him to quit.

"It has got nothing to do with our current state of economy or whatever some opposition leaders are trying to make out," the Information Minister, Mr Anwar Zahid, said.

He said that Mr Sayeduzzaman resigned "on some personal grounds" and President Ershad had accepted his resignation.

Kidnap man freed

Padua (Reuter) – An Italian businessman, abducted nearly three weeks ago, was freed yesterday and returned to his family.

Police said that Signor Claudio Sartori had been dumped overnight about 250 miles south of his home at Montagnana, near the city of Padua. Police drove him home to his wife and four children yesterday morning. He appeared in good health.

The kidnappers had initially demanded nearly £1 million ransom for Signor Sartori's release, but it was not clear if any money was paid.

Marrying for money

Vienna (Reuter) – Austrians are rushing to get married before the new year because the Finance Minister, Herr Ferdinand Lance, is to scrap a grant to newlyweds.

From January 1 he is abolishing a government grant of 7,500 schillings (£360) to every bride or groom who has never wed before. Register offices are doing record business as couples rush to beat the deadline.

"There's just about time to slip the ring on the finger and for the registrar to congratulate them," a Statistical Office spokesman said. There were 11,607 marriages last month, more than four times as many as in November, 1986.

Soviet envoy plays Santa to American homeless

From Michael Binyon
Washington

In a deft move certain to enhance his country's standing while irking the Reagan Administration, Mr Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet Ambassador, handed over a cheque for $5,000 (£2,700) on Christmas Eve to a group helping the thousands of homeless and down-and-outs on Washington's streets.

He gave the money from the Soviet Peace Fund, together with two brightly wrapped packages, to Mr Mitch Snyder, an advocate for the homeless. During the summit, his Community for Creative Non-violence invited Mr Gorbachov to visit the shelter it has built in the capital, but the Soviet leader did not make the visit.

The Russians made much of the ceremony in the Embassy, inviting in the US press. Mr Dubinin said he hoped the day would come when there would be neither homeless nor needy. Mr Snyder, never shy in the presence of government officials, looked at the ornate embassy room with gilt trimmings and said it would make a great shelter in winter.

"Too small, too small," the Ambassador replied hurriedly.

Christmas has focused national attention on the homeless, now numbering more than ever, and in many cities charities and film celebrities have been helping organize Christmas meals.

A parade of Hollywood stars held a well-publicized meeting with Washington's homeless at a feast for them in the city's convention centre, loaned for the occasion by the mayor. Among those helping to serve meals to around 3,000 people were Cher, Whoopi Goldberg, Valerie Harper, Dennis Quaid and several others, who all received useful television coverage, together with Mayor Marion Barry wearing a Father Christmas hat.

They told a news conference earlier that people in the richest country in the world had to start working to help the less fortunate. The city estimates there are about 6,000 homeless in Washington, though Mr Snyder puts the figure as high as 15,000, including families with children. There are many more in other big cities such as New York and Chicago.

At the other end of the country and the income bracket, the man who plays Santa Claus to the celebrities in Beverly Hills revealed that Mrs Imelda Marcos, wife of the deposed Philippines leader, recently hired him for a private party where he handed out gold jewellery to the staff and received a tip of $400.

Mr Brady White, who plays Santa in a shopping centre, wears a Rolex watch, white trainers and Cartier glasses, and has been told the Christmas wishes of Madonna, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Charles Bronson, Jill Ireland, Cher, Valerie Harper and even Jackie Onassis.

"Madonna jokingly asked me if she could be a virgin for Christmas, and I said, 'Santa can't work miracles.'" He said he had become quite used to children asking for diamonds or Ferraris. But many celebrities asked for more intangible things. This holiday season, wishes for peace and ending famine predominated.

The Christmas spirit was reflected all over the country. In Seattle an anonymous donor sent a shoe-box full of $25,000 in new notes to a radio station raising money for disadvantaged children. In Antioch, Illinois, 10 people convicted of minor crimes and traffic violations were ordered to serve their time answering letters to Santa Claus.

Not everything has had a happy ending, however. In Memphis a deputy sheriff disguised as Father Christmas arrested 117 fugitives who had been lured to a party by the promise of a prize in a holiday sweepstake. An Oklahoma truck driver who was supposed to deliver $20,000 of Christmas trees to a boy scout troop was accused of selling them to a supermarket chain for $7,360. And in southern California children calling a North Pole hotline to talk to Santa, reached a dial-a-porn line and discovered Santa naughty, not nice.

Pope warns of technology's temptation

Rome (Reuter) – The Pope yesterday urged mankind not to be tempted to see salvation in technology and to look instead to the message of Christ's birth.

About 50,000 pilgrims stood under grey skies in St Peter's Square and millions more people in at least 34 countries were able to watch the Pope live on television as he proclaimed his Christmas Day message *"Urbi et Orbi"* – to the City and the World.

Speaking from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica, he delivered Christmas greetings in 52 languages including Latin, his native Polish, other tongues spoken in the Soviet bloc, Swahili, Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, Bengali and Tamil. He then gave his special *"Urbi et Orbi"* blessing, which he imparts only on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.

The Pope said: "Never as much as today has man been tempted to believe that he is self-sufficient, capable of building with his own hands his own salvation."

Royal Navy intervenes in second Gulf attack

By Nicholas Beeston

The Royal Navy frigate HMS Scylla went to the rescue of a stricken South Korean merchant ship in the southern Gulf yesterday, the second time in two days that the warship has aided foreign vessels under attack from Iranian speedboats.

HMS Scylla's Lynx helicopter airlifted to safety some of the 30 crewmen trapped on the Korean ship Hyandai No 7, a 19,682-tonne cargo vessel carrying timber to the United Arab Emirates port of Dubai.

The ship's cargo was reported to have been set ablaze after an attack by Iranian speedboats, and the vessel was said to be steaming out of control 20 miles off the coast of Sharjah. The incident took place south of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard naval base on Abu Musa island.

The British rescue operation was co-ordinated with a helicopter from the US Navy missile frigate USS Elrod. The same two ships appeared to have averted an attack by three Iranian speedboats on the British-owned but Liberian-flagged tanker Eastern Power on Christmas Eve.

Until now, the 40 Western warships in the Gulf have observed strict rules of engagement that prohibit them from interfering when a foreign vessel is under attack.

But on Thursday HMS Scylla's helicopter approached the Eastern Power after it radioed that it was "being closed" by Iranian speedboats armed with rocket launchers and machineguns. The Iranian vesels dispersed after 10 minutes, but not before opening fire on USS Elrod's helicopter, which had also flown to the area.

The captain of HMS Scylla then offered to escort the tanker out of the Gulf in a convoy it was protecting. Observers said that the two incidents suggested that Allied navies may, in future, become more involved in escort and rescue duties for foreign merchant ships in the southern Gulf.

● **NEW YORK:** After months of foot-dragging, the United Nations Security Council has agreed to enforce its ceasefire plan in the Gulf, a step which will most likely take the form of an arms embargo against Iran (Charles Bremner writes).

The decision signals a significant shift by the Soviet Union towards the view of the United States, Britain and France that Iran must be forced to comply with the Resolution, passed unanimously on July 20.

The Soviet Union, backed by China, had argued for giving Iran more time, while the Western powers said Tehran was prolonging talks with Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, on the plan with no intention of complying. Iraq has said it will accept the ceasefire provided Iran does so.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar reported two weeks ago that he had given up his talks with Iran and he called on the council to come up with "a fresh impulse".

A statement issued by the council on Wednesday night said that it had agreed on the need for further steps to ensure compliance. A US spokesman said this meant an arms embargo.

Record breaker comes down to Earth

From A Correspondent
Moscow

The Soviet cosmonaut, Commander Yuri Romanenko, has spent more time out of this world than anyone – but he is coming home for the new year. Aged 43, he yesterday clocked up his 323rd day in the orbiting space station Mir as he prepared to return to Earth on Tuesday.

He has has missed some vital events back home through spending his record-breaking 10 months in space. He has been away while perestroika, the restructuring drive ordered by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, moved into what the Soviet leader calls a "crucial stage", and missed probably the golden days of glasnost, or openness. And, of course, he missed the Reagan-Gorbachov summit meeting in Washington.

But there was one major event in which he was he was able to take part: to mark the 30th anniversary of the launching of the first Sputnik, on October 4, the Mir cosmonauts were hooked up via satellite with participants at an international conference in Moscow specially convened for the event.

Commander Romanenko is bearing up well after spending 10 months in weightless conditions on board the Mir, and his condition is "normal", Mr Viktor Pishchik, an official of the Soviet Health Ministry's Institute for Medical and Biological Problems, said.

Commander Romanenko and his colleague, Flight Engineer Alexander Alexandrov, who is also returning to Earth after almost seven months on board the Mir, have been exercising daily for 2½ hours to restore their muscles as they prepare to return. They are also drinking salted liquid to cope with dehydration.

Mr Pishchik said he did not know if the Romanenko family would be at the Baikonur base in Soviet Central Asia to welcome the cosmonaut's return two days before New Year's Eve, a big festive event here. Christmas is not celebrated in the officially athiest Soviet Union.

Grandfather Frost, the Soviet version of Santa Claus, calling to say "Happy New Year" on decorations in central Moscow as the city prepares to welcome in 1988.

Commander Romanenko will spend two to three weeks "readapting" under close medical supervision at Baikonur, while doctors study the data his body can provide on how he withstood weightless conditions for so long.

After the initial readaptation period, he will spend 1½ months resting with his family at a sanatorium, probably in the north Caucasus, according to Mr Pishchik.

Both Commander Romanenko and Flight Engineer Alexandrov, in addition to their preparations for their return to Earth, are currently introducing three new Soviet cosmonauts to the space station and briefing them on experiments, after the new crew docked last Wednesday. All five will remain on board the Mir, which can hold up to six, until the Romanenko-Alexandrov team leave with one member of the new crew, Mr Anatoly Levchenko.

This is the first time the crew of the orbiting station has been completely changed since the Mir was launched in February, 1986. The replacement of Commander Romanenko and Flight Engineer Alexandrov seems to indicate that Russia plans to use Mir as a permanently manned space station.

● **Joint flight:** A joint Soviet-Bulgarian flight to the Mir will start on June 21 next year (AFP reports). More than 40 experiments willl be carried out during the 10-day mission. The Soviet Union and Bulgaria launched a first joint mission in 1979.

Palestinians' protest wave

Israel Cabinet unites against criticism

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The national unity Government, bitterly divided for so long over how to start the Middle East peace process, has come loyally together in the face of international criticism of Israel's handling of the troubles in the occupied territories. A Cabinet meeting of the 10 most senior ministers ended, after full briefings from military leaders, united in approving the new get-tough policy of the Army to put down the disturbances. It was the kind of unity which has been rare for some time.

Both Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, said that the priority was to restore order. According to Mr Peres, using words similar to those of the Prime Minister the day before, security was more important than Israel's image. It was the face that mattered, he said, not the picture in the mirror.

Mr Peres had been particularly cautious during a meeting of the Labour Party's Knesset members. He insisted then that there had to be peace in the territories before the argument over peace in the Middle East could resume with Mr Shamir and Likud.

Mr Mordechai Gur, a former Chief of Staff and Cabinet Minister, agreed. If need be, the Army should deploy tanks in Nablus, in the West Bank, and in Gaza to show who was in charge, he said. Israelis were neither crusaders nor Turks, he said. "We are here to stay and that must be made obvious."

There was a more cautious note from some younger members of the party, who warned that Labour's stand was in danger of losing Arab votes to the extremists. They urged a more rapid move towards a political solution. But the majority of members supported the leadership in giving priority to putting down the disturbances by whatever means were necessary.

Inside the Knesset Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Defence Minister, only had trouble from the very small minority left-wing parties when he explained his get-tough policy. There was determination to put down the rioting, he said, even if that should damage Israel's image abroad. Such damage was only temporary so all measures necessary would be taken.

Using what he knew was an emotive comparison, he said that the situation in Hebron, Nablus and Ramallah would not be allowed to degenerate into the kind of lawlessness which prevailed in Beruit, Sidon and Tyre. Every measure within the law would be used and if tear gas and rubber bullets failed then troops would be ordered to open fire.

This view is supported by the right, and Likud has been particularly angered by the wide support given by Israeli Arabs to a strike in sympathy with the Palestinians. Mr Ronni Milo, the Likud Deputy Prime Minister, said that there would be no more consultations with Arab councils to punish them for having backed the strike.

A scan through the letters columns of newspapers revealed no strong condemnation of the Government, and strong backing for the Army. This is understandable given that every man up to the age of 55 does military service each year. Many of those helping to "beef up" patrols in the territories now are reservists.

There is a real personal understanding of the dangers and trials of troops facing a mob of stone-throwing children. World criticism is dismissed as being made by people who do not know what it is like to patrol in a refugee camp.

With a general election due next year, Mr Shamir alone has been scoring political points over the disturbances. First because of his strong stand, and second because Mr Peres was out of the country for most of the time.

Most importantly, he has pointed out that his rival was, in part, responsible for the trouble by suggesting on the day before it began that Gaza should be demilitarized. Mr Shamir has argued that this encouraged the violent elements who believed Israel could be forced to withdraw.

Mr Peres has, therefore, to be careful about publicizing any concessions he is prepared to make. Mr Shamir is ready to blame him in future for any disturbances, telling the public that the soft line of the Labour party encourages violence.

Jerusalem (Reuter) – The Israeli Army arrested a newsman from its own radio station on Christmas Eve while he was covering celebrations in Bethlehem.

Military police took Corporal Zohar Melamed, 20, to a Jerusalem area army base where he was held for several hours before being released, his colleagues said. He had angered army commanders by his reports from the occupied West Bank dealing with mishaps or brutality against Arab civilians.

Comic chapter in Japan's thirst for knowledge

From David Watts
Tokyo

A unique comic book should ensure that the new generation of Japanese do not get stuck with the copycat image of their fathers.

Primary school students will soon be enjoying *The Adventures of Magic Monkey* which will teach them all about copyright laws. The new book is the latest in a vogue for explaining complex but important subjects through simple comic presentation.

A cartoon drama about the Japanese economy is already a best-seller in three volumes and two salaried employees are the heroes of a new *manga*, or cartoon book, on the race with the United States to be first in the world to achieve practical superconductivity – the key to world technological leadership in the next century.

Serious works on the subject sell in large numbers, yet how many people in Britain have the foggiest notion of the importance of superconductivity let alone the interest to buy a book on its principles?

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone claimed earlier this year that the Japanese had access to more and better information than any other nation. It sounded arrogant coming from the former Prime Minister, but he is arguably correct. Certainly no country thirsts after knowledge the way Japan does.

The flood of translations from English and other languages into Japanese has become a one-way déluge that only serves to emphasize the paucity of information that is flowing the other way at a time when Japan is either neck-and-neck with the West or leading in numerous fields of endeavour.

As a rule of thumb the flow of translations is estimated at 10-1 in Japan's favour.

And if that is sometimes because the conservative Japanese often prefer to keep themselves to themselves it is also increasingly seen in Japan as a crucial barrier to getting the country's point of view over to the rest of the world.

The mass-circulation morning newspapers do not shrink from regularly leading their front pages with arcane economic analyses; during the day television news broadcasts close with the current yen-dollar exchange rate and the stockmarket report.

There are at least 150 different comic titles and if the more manic *manga* of 300 pages sell anything up to four million copies a week, the daily newspapers sell 48 million copies a day. The population of 121 million could choose from 1,450 million books printed in 1985.

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‘Sorry we have to be apart again . . . I am in good health but tired and very lonely’

US condemns release of Anderson videotape

From Michael Binyon
Washington

The US Government has condemned the "cynical" release of a videotape on Christmas Eve by the captors of Mr Terry Anderson, the US hostage who is spending his third year in captivity in Lebanon, and who appealed to President Reagan to do more to get him released.

A State Department spokesman said all statements by hostages were made under duress, but added: "We continue to be deeply concerned for the health and well-being of the hostages. They are not forgotten."

Mrs Peggy Say, Mr Anderson's sister who has campaigned tirelessly for his release, said the tape was the "Christmas present I have prayed for". She said it was the first real word she had had from him for more than a year. His message did not sound threatening, and it sounded as though he was in good health.

America watched with anguish the six-minute tape in which the former Associated Press bureau chief in Beirut appealed to President Reagan to bring an end to the suffering of kidnapped Americans, and spoke of his loneliness and weariness.

"Mr President, I say again this cannot continue. There is a limit to how long we can last, and some of us are approaching their limit very badly ... Surely you know what must be done and how you can do it," Mr Anderson said as he stood against a striped blue-and-white sheet.

Looking healthy and wearing a beard, glasses and beige sweater, he spoke quietly as he read from a prepared statement. "To my Government, I don't know what to say. I know that you are trying to get us out, but I don't know exactly what you can do. I only know that it has not been enough or the right thing."

Mr Anderson noted despondently that it was his third Christmas in captivity and the condition of all the hostages was "not great". He said that there would be an improvement if conditions were made better for the 17 radical Arab prisoners held in Kuwait.

His voice trembled when he addressed his family. He has two daughters, the younger of whom was born after his kidnapping. "I love you and miss you very much," he said. "I'm sorry we have to be apart again this Christmas ... I'm in good health but tired and very lonely."

To President Reagan, he urged him to remember while he celebrated with his family that the hostages would remain in prison after the holiday and until a solution was found.

The US Government has maintained an embarrassed silence about its efforts to secure their release since the Iran-Contra fiasco, which was triggered by concern for the hostages. There were hopes here that the recent release of two Frenchmen would signal the imminent release of some Americans. But these have been dashed.

● **BEIRUT:** The British Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr John Gray, the wives of American and French hostages and pro-Iranian Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah issued Christmas appeals for the freedom of the hostages, including the special envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mr Terry Waite, who vanished in Beirut almost a year ago while on a mission to free Mr Anderson and fellow-captives (A Correspondent writes).

The Lebanon hostage-takers, however, remained silent and there were no signs any hostages will gain freedom by the New Year despite Beirut press reports that a West German hostage, Herr Rudolf Cordes and two Frenchmen will be freed over Christmas and New Year.

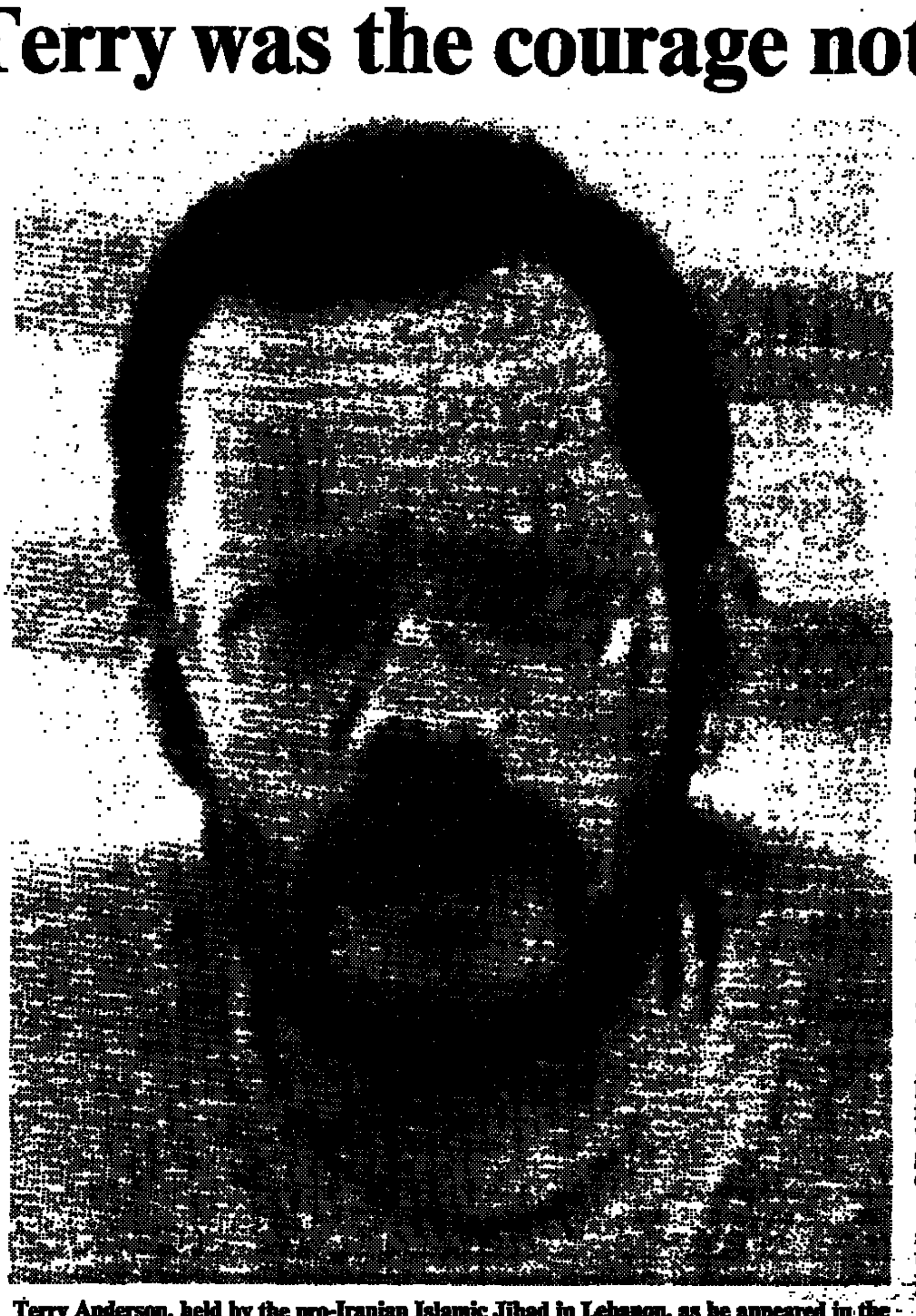
Mr Waite is spending his first Christmas and New Year as a hostage in Lebanon which he visited several times, including the Christmas of 1985, to try to secure a Christmas release for the hostages. There has been no word on Mr Waite since he disappeared.

"We call on those who have knowledge of Alec Collet, John McCarthy and Terry Waite, and all the other hostages held against their will in the Lebanon, to do all they can to effect the release of these men, so they may return to their families," Mr Gray said in a televised appeal.

The ambassador urged anyone who could offer information on the British hostages to contact him at the embassy. Mr Collett, aged 66, was seized in 1985 and his kidnappers said they killed him in April, 1986, to avenge British-supported US air raids on Libya.

The price of truth for Terry was the courage not to walk away

From Robert Fisk, west Beirut



Terry Anderson, held by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad in Lebanon, as he appeared in the videotape issued by his captors yesterday and, below, as he looked before his 1985 capture.

Not long before he was kidnapped exactly 1,000 days ago, in March last year, Mr Terry Anderson was in London, where he went with a close friend to the cinema. The film they saw was *The Killing Fields*, which told the story of how *The New York Times* correspondent in Cambodia had stayed on after the Americans left and had then watched his local Cambodian freelance walking off into captivity.

Mr Anderson came away from the film deeply moved. "Every reporter should see that film," he told me later. "It tells you why you should stay with the story after the the big guys have gone home, and why you shouldn't think that the Americans are the only story. And it shows you how you should always think about the safety of your local staff."

Mr Anderson knew what he was talking about. He stayed on in Beirut after the Americans left. "I like it here," he kept saying, when I asked him about the danger.

There was still a story — a tragedy — to report in Lebanon. And there were local staffers, too. When four of them were kidnapped in October, 1984, Terry Anderson went out alone visiting the militias and eventually got his men released. He sat in on their news conference later, beaming his delight that they were safe, that he had got them out. Some of his colleagues believe that his picture at that news conference probably sealed his fate, that the kidnappers of "Islamic Jihad" picked him out as an American who had stayed behind; his journalistic status did not interest them except in so far as it would give greater publicity to their act of abduction and to their subsequent demands.

Lebanon, it turned out, provided no happy endings. It is, as Terry Anderson realized deep down, a place where courage has no reward.

> “He went alone to visit the militias and win the release of four of his staff”

It thus has a near-fatal attraction to the brave, the foolhardy and to those who live in the half-world of the civil war, who have self-consciously rejected or simply abandoned the standards by which other people live, on the grounds that they have other rules and codes of their own.

Terry Anderson falls into the first category. His abductors, who regarded the value of his American citizenship as a negotiating card before his integrity as a journalist, belong to the third.

It was an inevitable equation, although it took the press long enough to learn it. If there were men in Lebanon who paid no heed to the conventions of politics or international agreements, who regarded kidnapping as a justifiable means to an end, libelling their victims as spies amid messages of Islamic fervour, then the respect hitherto accorded to foreign correspondents was also going to disappear.

Journalists are not immune; in Vietnam and Cambodia, even in the Second World War, there were specific examples of reporters being deliberately mistreated because they were trying to report the truth to the world outside.

But even in the early years of the Lebanon conflict, the old conventions remained. In the autumn of 1983, in the mountain town of Bhamdoun, under shellfire after its bloody capture by Druze militiamen, Terry Anderson and I were stopped by a young Palestinian guerrilla, shaking his rifle at us. He had been under fire too long and he was angry.

"Who are you? Are you spies?" He went on screaming abuse until another Palestinian, slightly older, came up and put his hand on the man's shoulder. "Leave them alone," he ordered the gunman. "They are *sahafi* (press), it is their job to be here." It was one of the last occasions when one could have expected such protection. In future, the *sahafi* would not be gifted with such innocence.

First, they took Mr Jeremy Levin, the Beirut correspondent of Cable News Network. His kidnapping was so unusual and the circumstances attended by so much confusion that few realized its significance. On the night of Mr Levin's abduction, Terry Anderson had ruminated on his fate. "Who knows who did it? Who knows if we will see him again?"

He thought about it for a while, in silence. It did not make much sense, so we in Beirut put it down to one of the those inexplicable, unknown acts that befalls the innocent. Beirut people develop a feeling about "fate" and foreigners are not immune from this.

An abduction or a car-bombing is like an earthquake, a natural, uncontrollable disaster. Getting kidnapped is bad luck; which is what Terry Anderson thought right up to the moment when two burly gunmen with short, pointed beards, bear-hugged him into a curtained limousine next to the little Ein el-Mreisse mosque on March 16, 1985.

And that is when Terry left the bright, cosmopolitan world of Beirut in which his other friends lived and enjoyed themselves, and moved, in the space of just a few terrifying minutes, into the dark world of chains and basements and underground interrogations.

It is a transition that all of us in Beirut understand. We fear it so much that we make jokes about it. If you drive through Beirut wearing a hood, surely no one will touch you; they will think you have already been abducted. Get a friend to point a gun at your head when you drive through town; only once in Lebanon has a kidnapper ever been kidnapped. Terry Anderson never made these jokes. Because he was the man who proved they were necessary.

We know now something of what happened to Terry in the succeeding days.

He was held first in the basement of a derelict hotel, scarcely a mile from his home, chained to a wall, shouting at his kidnappers when they tried to interrogate him. He was asked about other journalists, about those reporters — who lived in Beirut. Terry Anderson himself was about to become synonymous with the "forgotten Americans", the US citizens who already had been, and were about to be, kidnapped in Lebanon.

> “There is no law, no right of appeal, no claim to friendship that could free him”

For within weeks the world outside Terry Anderson's basement also changed. Almost all the Western correspondents in the city were evacuated, some to Cyprus, others to Cairo and Amman. Just over a year later, all but four had left the country. Those of us who stayed found ourselves stared at in restaurants, treated with a mixture of pity and suspicion by several old acquaintances. Other Lebanese went out of their way to protect us. But of course, there is no real protection. And most of the time, we knew that Terry Anderson must have been quite close to us.

There is no active police force, no law, no right of appeal, no claim to friendship or journalistic integrity that could free our friend.

We tried to relieve the burden of his imprisonment by some contact. Terry received photographs of his elder daughter, of his new baby, a Christmas card signed by myself and a colleague. He received the card, one snapshot of the baby and one picture of the elder daughter with the name he used for me, "Fisky", written on the back. Nothing more.

When we saw him on the videotape which his captors released earlier this last year, his voice seemed unnaturally low, his face much thinner; we had a kind of suspicion that some of his lower teeth might be missing. He had changed. But how much?

His sister asked that many times. Even more frequently, she asked why President Reagan and the State Department seemed to care so little about her brother and the other American hostages. At first, she was asked by the American Government to keep quiet. When the hostages from the TWA jet were about to be released in 1985 after the intervention of President Assad of Syria — that Arab leader whom the Americans alternately abuse and then thank for humanitarian acts — Mrs Say received a call from the State Department. Would she please remain silent, she was asked, and not bring up the question of the other hostages in Beirut when the TWA passengers were released?

It seemed to be a pattern, and Mrs Say broke it, indignantly demanding why the Americans chose to forget their captive citizens in Beirut. It was apparent to many of Terry's friends — and especially to those few of us left in Beirut — that the American authorities privately took the view that the US citizens abducted in Beirut had it coming to them and therefore to some degree deserved their fate.

Why had they not evacuated from Beirut when advised to do so by their Government? And in truth the Americans, like the British, can do nothing for their people in west Beirut; their embassies long ago retreated to the Christian east of the city. Terry Anderson had become an embarrassment rather than a focus of humanitarian concern.

The State Department argued constantly that it could not do deals "with terrorists". And only when Mrs Say demanded attention and refused to keep Washington's silence did President Reagan begin to assert that "not a day goes by" when his Administration was not working for the release of the hostages. Mr Reagan personally met Mrs Say.

A series of moral questions was being raised by the captivity of Terry Anderson and his fellow American hostages. The kidnappers of "Islamic Jihad" — still demanding the release of 17 men imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the French and American embassies there — encouraged the hostages' families to appeal to Mr Reagan. The innocence of the captives was being used shamelessly to bring further pressure on the Administration.

Yet there was growing evidence that the Americans were prepared to "talk with terrorists", indeed to reward them when it was expedient to do so.

There were other less global moral issues being questioned at the same time. Many news organizations had ordered their correspondents to withdraw from Beirut against their will. As a result, the Lebanon War, a conflict of enormous importance in the Middle East, began to be reported from Nicosia and Cairo, where it was impossible to gain any first-hand knowledge of events.

Those correspondents who stayed in Beirut became accustomed to the personal irritation of some of those who left. Those who stayed were crazy or "trying to prove something". Those who left were "trying to report a story from where it isn't happening".

In Italy this debate reached a height when some news organizations let it be known that they no longer thought it worth their while to allow correspondents to work in dangerous places. A school of journalists there identified themselves with the idea that reporters should no longer place themselves in danger in Beirut, Afghanistan or the Gulf War.

Was a reporter's life worth the story? It was a grim debate, not least because the last time correspondents kept away from an accessible war — between 1914 and 1918 — the reports of the conflict were often fiction, derided by men at the front as well as by their journalistic successors.

Terry Anderson would have waded into the debate had he been free to do so. "Our job," he once announced, "is to go out and get a story on the spot, to see what's going on." If one of his own staff could not physically reach the scene of a battle or a car-bombing, he would rage at this impotency.

He believed in being where the story was. He asserted repeatedly that the news had to be reported fairly. "Don't use the word 'terrorist'," he once ordered his staff. "It's used by one side against another. So don't use the word." He even pinned an instruction to that effect on the notice-board of his Beirut office.

We have not yet discovered how much compulsion, if any, was used to get Terry Anderson to make his videotape. If he meant what he said, then it seems that he was genuinely outraged when President Reagan negotiated the release from prison in Moscow of Mr Nicholas Daniloff, the *US News & World Report* correspondent, by freeing an accused Soviet spy in return.

Why would Mr Reagan submit to one blackmail but not another? This was the thrust of Terry Anderson's question. Mr Reagan's argument was simple: the US had diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union but Terry Anderson's captors were "faceless terrorists".

Only they were not. His principal abductor was a Shia Muslim from Beirut whose existence and identity had been well known to the Americans for months — so well known that American agents tried to capture him near Paris when he was on a visit to France. The French, mindful of their own hostages in Lebanon, forced the Americans to leave him alone.

> “Why would Mr Reagan submit to one blackmail but not another?”

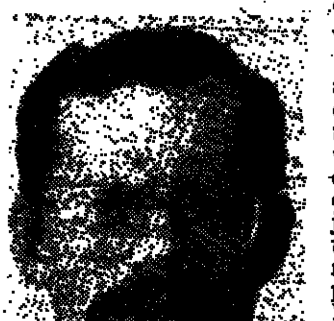
So in the end, the world of Terry Anderson and that of all those around him was substantially changed by his early morning abduction on March 16, 1985.

The Government which said it would never "deal with terrorists" ultimately began to do so. Mr Anderson's journalistic colleagues now largely report Lebanon from afar. The few who are left will wait to hear his own account of his captivity and of his real feelings.

For Terry Anderson is the man who paid the price for "staying on the story". Journalists will have to ponder that price, for it involves the right to tell the world as much as possible of the truth about the wars which still dominate so many countries.

Governments will have to examine the behaviour of the Reagan Administration as it was slowly forced to come to terms with its forgotten Americans. As usual in the Lebanon story, there were few good guys and a lot of threats. And after a thousand days of his captivity, Mr Anderson's relatives and friends are still waiting for a happy ending.

Wives' kidnap appeal



Beirut (Reuter) — The wives of four academics held hostage in Lebanon have issued a Christmas message to their captive husbands and the kidnappers.

A group calling itself the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said a week ago it would harm its four captives — one Indian and three Americans — unless Israel stopped its crackdown on Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

Jesse Turner, aged 39, Robert Polhill, aged 53, Alann Steen, aged 48, and the Indian, Mithileshwar Singh, 60, were seized on January 24 from the west Beirut university where they worked.

"On the occasion of Christmas and New Year we offer our best wishes to our brothers in faith, and may God end people's sufferings," said the message published in Beirut newspapers yesterday. Mr Turner's wife said: "We pray for you, hoping to spend the new year together."

Jail break by Manson woman baffles police

From Michael Binyon
Washington

"Squeaky" Fromme: Had no visitors for more than a year.

A massive manhunt in the mountains of West Virginia ended yesterday when police announced the recapture of "Squeaky" Fromme, a follower of the mass murderer, Charles Manson, who escaped on Wednesday from a prison where she was serving a life sentence for the attempted assassination of President Ford 12 years ago.

Officials at the Federal Correction Institution for Women in Alderson said initially that two searches of the 96-acre prison grounds had turned up no sign of her but could find no physical sign of an escape.

Roadblocks were set up, and dozens of police combed the rugged terrain around the prison. US marshals in all 50 states were told to look out for her. She is considered "potentially dangerous".

Miss Fromme still corresponds regularly with Manson, who is in prison in California, and wears the red bandanna that marked her as a member of his murderous "family". A prison spokesman said there was a possibility that Fromme had had outside help in escaping, although she had not had any visitors in more than a year.

In 1975 she was convicted of aiming a pistol at President Ford on the steps of the California state capitol in Sacramento. A secret service agent managed to grab the weapon before it could be fired. She was the first person to be sentenced under a 1965 law making attempted assassination of a president a crime.

A slightly-built redhead, nicknamed Squeaky by Manson because of her high-pitched voice, she became a bizarre symbol of counter-culture terrorism.

During the Manson trial, in which she was not charged, she and another woman carved Xs on their foreheads to demonstrate their support. At her own trial, most of which she refused to attend, she wore a bright red druid-like robe, was repeatedly ejected from the court for her rambling discourses. At her sentencing she hit the prosecutor with an apple.

Imprisoned in the West Virginia, she was transferred to a California prison in 1978 but returned to Alderson when she hit another inmate with a hammer.

Since then she had apparently been a model prisoner.

Over the past two years there have been eight escapes at the prison involving 15 inmates, including Fromme. Twelve of them have been recaptured, most within a few days and within a hour's drive of the prison.

Fromme was eligible for a parole hearing in 1985, but waived it, apparently because she concluded she had no chance of winning her freedom that early.

Glemp urges sceptics to play part in reforms

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

The Roman Catholic Primate of Poland yesterday used his Christmas Day address to urge Solidarity supporters and other sceptical Poles to play their part in reforming communist society.

The unusual appeal — calling on Catholics to set aside their suspicions about General Jaruzelski's version of *glasnost* — was drafted in the knowledge that the Pope will soon meet the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov.

In a statement read out in all Polish churches, Cardinal Jozef Glemp — who returned last week from a long session of talks in the Vatican — said that Catholics could contribute to bettering society by reforming their own spiritual lives.

"We need a reform, that is a change of attitudes, lifestyles and wrong social structures. No one denies this need. There remains the basic question: who is really to start the reform and in what way? The Church, aware of its responsibility for moral development, stubbornly repeats: the reform should begin with ourselves, everyone should improve himself with a view to doing away with sin and moral evil."

How were Catholics to participate in reform without becoming communist stooges? Opposition strategists in Poland argue that the only realistic reform must challenge the roots of communist society. Cardinal Glemp, however, argued yesterday that the answer was participating in, and not withdrawing from, social life.

"The bitter will certainly say: 'This self-improvement will not yield any socio-economic results because the system itself is rotten'. But we answer this statement with a question: 'Can a wrong system survive if people become sober, responsible, brave, diligent and strong in their moral and spiritual lives?' After all, evil should be fought with good." In other words, reforming communism is not just a way of propping up the system — it will also ultimately undermine communist values.

Cardinal Glemp discussed the prospects of full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Warsaw during his talks with the Pope last week. Church experts believe that relations could be established even in 1988.

A Vatican audience for Mr Gorbachov is being prepared; it is believed that the Kremlin leader will go to Rome towards the end of January or the beginning of February. But the Church is also determined to win a number of concessions from the Polish state before it agrees to establish a Vatican embassy in Warsaw.

"Before we can have diplomatic relations we must firmly establish a situation where the Church can compete with communist values in all important spheres, while at the same time contributing to national recovery," commented one recent Polish church emissary to Rome.

Demjanjuk's lawyers complain about judges

From a Correspondent
Jerusalem

The defence team of Mr John Demjanjuk accused the three-judge panel at their client's trial this week of too much interference, thereby destroying the image of impartiality.

The accusation came in response to the continual intervention by the judges at the cross-examination of a defence witness, Dr M. Yasir Iscan, a forensic anthropologist testifying about a contested photograph on a Nazi service pass.

Dr Iscan, who maintains that a positive identification of the photograph cannot be made, did not respond directly to most of the prosecution's questions. He answered in general terms, trying to explain the overall superimposition process he used in drawing his conclusions.

The judges told him that there was a difference between giving evidence in court and giving a lecture at a symposium, and warned him to answer the specific questions as put to him. They restated many of the prosecution questions, in order to clarify them and ensure that Dr Iscan understood the specific point being addressed.

This intervention angered the defence, who cited Israeli and Canadian precedents regarding the negative consequence of judicial interference. "When a judge intervenes in the examination of a witness in such a way that he projects himself into the arena, his participation becomes inimical to one or another of the litigants. Intervention amounting to interference in court destroys the image of impartiality and deprives the court of jurisdiction," stated the precedents.

The court overruled the defence objection, saying that it was acceptable, even desirable, for the judges to clarify the questions and make sure that the meaning of the witness's answers matched the meaning of the prosecution's question.

Dr Iscan's testimony was meant to counter the testimony of a prosecution witness Patricia Smith, an anthropologist at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Ms Smith had electronically superimposed the disputed 1942 photograph over a video taken of Mr Demjanjuk in the prison courtyard in 1986. The corresponding features and the precise manner in which the two photographs matched each other led Ms Smith to conclude that the photograph on the Nazi service pass was of Mr Demjanjuk.

Dr Iscan made his own video superimposition to demonstrate that this method is inconclusive when using two-dimensional photographs.

هكذا من الأصل

صكنا من الاصل

Riots as Indian state leader dies

Stability at risk in Tamil Nadu

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

One of the most remarkable political leaders since India's independence, Mr Marudur Gopalan Ramachandran, died on Christmas Eve. His death caused widespread riots in which 14 people were said to have been killed, and left behind a political instability in his home state which is likely to have profound national and international consequences.

At least three people killed themselves out of grief at his passing, two by immolation and one by hanging. Crowds of more than a million caused chaos around the funeral procession yesterday as he was buried under a black polished granite slab on the Madras Marina Beach.

Mr Ramachandran, known to everybody as "M.G.R.", had been Chief Minister of the southernmost Indian state of Tamil Nadu since 1977, except for a short break when his government was dismissed by Mrs Indira Gandhi.

He rejoiced in a popularity among the citizens of his state that was nothing short of idolatry, and his funeral cortège yesterday drove for six miles on a virtual carpet of flowers.

M.G.R. was first of all a film star and his political success has led other matinée idols to enter the political arena, most notably his neighbour, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr Ramachandran's government was marked by a determined populism, which reinforced his widespread appeal. In particular, he is fondly remembered for having introduced a free meal for every child at school in Tamil Nadu.

But his international importance stems from his patronage of the Sri Lankan guerrilla groups, in particular the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, led by Mr Vellupillai Prabhakaran. President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka used to characterize the Tiger group as "M.G.R.'s private army".

Mr Ramachandran was born in Sri Lanka (officially 70 years ago, but those who know him say he was 76) in the central hill town of Kandy. He was not a Tamil, being born of a Keralite Menon family, but his sympathies and those of the 40 million Tamils of Tamil Nadu were wholly with the guerrillas.

Mr Ramachandran: From a film star to a political idol.

However, a growing lawlessness among the guerrilla groups sheltering in Tamil Nadu and the obstinate intransigence of Mr Prabhakaran in peace talks changed M.G.R.'s attitude.

A direct snub to the Chief Minister at the Bangalore summit meeting of 1986 was given when Mr Prabhakaran refused to agree to a formula which M.G.R. endorsed.

The Tamil Nadu Government was thereafter persuaded to support the India-Sri Lanka peace accord, and when fighting between the Indian forces and the Tigers broke out there was no adverse reaction.

That may now change as the various political leaders within the Dravidian movement begin manoeuvring for the succession. Support for the Tigers could be seen as a way of whipping up public support for an individual contender.

That the old order was already changing was demonstrated yesterday at the funeral when, amid cries of "Long live the Great Revolutionary Leader," his erstwhile woman friend, Miss Jayalalitha, who had been propaganda secretary of the party, was compelled to disembark from the funeral gun-carriage. In a scuffle, she was kicked in the head by another party stalwart.

The Chief Minister's role has been taken over by the senior minister in the Cabinet, Mr V.R. Nedunchezhian. But this is regarded as purely a temporary measure.

The fear of a total break-up of the party was one reason why Mr Ramachandran was accepted for so long as Chief Minister, despite an illness which in 1985 left him virtually incapable of speaking.

Obituary, page 10

Job projects keep famine victims alive

From Our Own Correspondent, Jodhpur

Crouched under a brightly coloured marquee, Qasim Khan, swathed in a dun shawl against the desert cold, anxiously cleaned his plate of lentils and vegetables with a crumbled *bajra roti*, a flat chapatti-like millet bread.

He paid one rupee (about 4p) for his meal and could eat as much as he liked. If he could not have afforded it, he would have got the meal free. But he had been at work on a building site and could afford to pay. He was pleased to do so, though he felt nervous about eating at a charity kitchen, when Muslims might not be welcome.

But the kitchen is run by a group of Jodhpur businessmen on entirely non-religious grounds. The Famine Affected Meal Provision Committee is headed by a Jain — a member of an austere Hindu offshoot — and provides 1,000 meals a day to those worst hit by the drought currently afflicting north India, and especially these arid areas of Rajasthan. Another 1,000 meals are sent out to neighbouring villages.

Qasim Khan comes from the cattle-raising lands in the district of Barmer, and could only watch helplessly after the grazing had become exhausted by the failure of four successive monsoons. His three cows died.

He is being kept alive by the battery of famine-relief organizations, both private and governmental, which are active here.

HUNGER IN INDIA

Part 2

The state government is providing work through famine relief projects to 1.36 million people daily. Money is authorized for labour only, which means that no "pukka" works are being undertaken, no village halls built, no police stations, no schools. Instead, earth is embanked at roadsides, village reservoirs are being deepened, and so on.

At Dangiawas, for example, on the road to Jaipur, Mr Brij Mohan Singh, the local *patwari*, the lowest level of government official, is organizing his villagers into two teams. One is deepening the village tank, the other building an earth road to a neighbouring hamlet. One person from each family gets the chance to do a daily shift.

Mrs Hawa Devi, the wife of the village barber, is out there shovelling soil into a metal bowl and carting it gracefully away on her head. She is earning between six and eight rupees a day (about 30p). She is not happy. "Look at my hands," she says. "We are not used to this heavy labour."

Most of the work is done by women. The pay is not sufficient to attract the men, who prefer to go to town in search of better or to sit around and smoke.

Mrs Hawa Devi gets up at 4am to bake bread and feed the surviving animals. She labours all day and then returns home to feed her six children. Bed is at 9pm.

The cost to the state of even these meagre wages is immense, and virtually all other development work has come to a standstill. Delhi gave Rajasthan 1,150 million rupees (£51 million) to cope with relief in three months from August. An announcement this week stated that another 2,150 million rupees would be given for November to March, and 1,440 million for April to June.

By comparison, the amount that foreign non-governmental organizations can provide is tiny, but both Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund are involved with their own famine relief work. Oxfam is supporting a project in a low-caste group of villages just outside the capital, Jaipur, which is providing work in water conservation measures.

More important, perhaps, than the actual projects, they are teaching local people to mobilize their own resources. Dr J.R. Singh, one of the leaders of the project, said: "People have been looking to the Government for everything."

There has been a tradition of famine relief works in Rajasthan. Here in Jodhpur, the city is dominated by the Umaid Palace, an Indo-Teutonic sandstone pile begun in 1928 as a famine relief project by the then ruler of the Marwar kingdom, Maharajah Umaid Singh.

Today the palace is a hotel, but the ruler's grandson, Mr Gaj Singh, who would be maharajah if such titles had not been abolished, still has his offices there.

The Eton-and-Oxford-educated grandee is concerned about the plight of his erstwhile subjects. "The real problem is to find a permanent solution," he said. "Four or five years ago this kind of situation was being predicted, but nothing was done in terms of planning to face the situation."

At least a long-term solution to the drinking water problem in Jodhpur is being organized. A canal bringing water from fortunate Punjab passes 125 miles away, but the Government is planning to lift water from it to another canal and bring it to the city.

The project will be the biggest famine-relief operation in the area, and 100,000 people are being readied to start the digging.

"The temporary arrangements we have made to supply drinking water here will last us through one more monsoon failure," said Mr G.L. Mathur, Jodhpur's chief water engineer.

"No major centre of population will have to be abandoned because of water shortage," said Mr B.L. Sharma, the state's chief water engineer. "Not as of today."

Bearfoot pas de deux

Yulia Denisenko, daughter of a circus owner in the Ukraine, teaching a polar bear to dance the waltz on ice-skates. Her father, Alexander, says the training took two years.

Taiwanese call for more democracy

Taipei (Reuter) — Opposition deputies demanding greater democracy shouted down President Chiang Ching-kuo of Taiwan yesterday in an unprecedented protest in Parliament, witnesses said.

They said 11 deputies from the Democratic Progress party leapt to their feet as President Chiang addressed the National Assembly and shouted: "We demand full elections to Parliament."

It was the first time that the President had been confronted personally with demands for more democracy for the island's native Taiwanese majority.

Parliament is now controlled by Chinese mainlanders of the Nationalist Party who fled to Taiwan in 1949 when the Communists took power in Peking.

Thousands of riot police and curtains of barbed wire sealed off areas round the National Assembly — one of the three branches of Parliament — in a huge security operation to prevent a confrontation between President Chiang, aged 77, and several thousand demonstrators who chanted: "Old legislators must go."

Witnesses said that Mr Chiang, who is confined to a wheelchair, remained impassive during the protest at a ceremony in the assembly marking Constitution Day. About 900 people, sat in astonished silence.

Maltese burn flag in protest to Italy

Valletta (AP) — Hundreds of Maltese burned an Italian flag in front of Italy's embassy in Valletta yesterday to protest against the arrest of Mr Joseph Brincat, a former Maltese Justice Minister who was found in Italy allegedly with jewels and money linked to a kidnap ransom.

Italian police said Mr Brincat and a Maltese woman, identified as Maria Shires, were stopped in Calabria while removing from a car's petrol tank £45,000 in gold and silver, jewels and Italian and foreign currency.

Sailor saved

New York (Reuter) — Andras Szonyi, a 53-year-old business consultant and professor at the University of Toronto attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo, was plucked from his disabled 30ft yacht by a Liberian cargo ship about 800 miles west of Cape Verde on Christmas Eve.

Storm chaos

Istanbul (Reuter) — Blizzards swept across Istanbul yesterday, bringing chaos to the city's streets and disrupting flights from its airport.

Wives protest

Hong Kong (Reuter) — Nineteen women were among illegal immigrants from China who staged a brief hunger strike in Hong Kong on Christmas Day to demand a reunion with their husbands and children.

Athens blast

Athens (Reuter) — Fire raged out of control after an arson attack on a Greek military depot north of Athens yesterday morning and exploding ammunition halted traffic

Back to life

Peking (Reuter) — A 50-year-old Chinese peasant woman "returned to life" and is soon to go home after her heart stopped beating eight times during an operation, once for as long as 20 minutes.

Afghan talks

Delhi (Reuter) — The Afghan leader, Dr Najibullah, left Delhi for Cambodia yesterday after talks with senior Indian leaders that focused on a proposed Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

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Robert Kilroy-Silk

Baring all for the cameras

"They won't talk," they said flatly. "It won't work. Britain isn't like the States. The British won't come on TV and reveal their greatest personal secrets and discuss their most sensitive problems. They're too inhibited, shy, reserved. They're sensible."

"And anyway," I was informed rather dismissively and with great confidence, "even if they do they'll not be any good. They're not articulate, not like the Americans. *Stick* a microphone under the mouth of virtually any American and he'll perform as if he's born to it. The British won't and aren't. They'll stutter and stammer. It will all end in tears."

The occasion for these well-intentioned and doom-laden predictions was the launch last year of my morning discussion programme loosely based on the successful *Oprah Winfrey* and *Phil Donahue* shows that have dominated the early morning schedules in the US for the last decade.

None of the predictions came true. In the last 12 months over 6,000 confident and articulate individuals have breezed into the *Kilroy* studio to share their problems and bizarre experiences with millions watching at home.

It has been an amazing experience. After 12 years as an MP I thought I had heard and seen it all. Not a bit of it. I've seen more of the rich kaleidoscope of life, second-hand, in the last few months than in the previous two decades. And I'm still taken aback by the candour with which participants expose their vulnerabilities.

The rapist was just the beginning. To hear him explain to an audience mainly of rape victims why and how he chose his victim and then justify his action was, I believed, a unique experience, especially when he was confronted by the victims during and after the show. But then we had the father recounting his seduction of his teenage daughter because he "needed love," and his daughter, sitting alongside him, saying "I thought it was normal because I never knew any different."

In the next weeks they were followed by the wife-beater trying to explain to battered and vengeful women that he was also a victim and only beat his girlfriend when she did not live up to his expectations of her; by the burglar confessing to having burgled his own father's house, but who said he didn't steal from a home where the photograph of the occupant reminded him of his grandmother; the shoplifter arrogantly justifying his thieving to an audience of shopkeepers on the grounds that they were rich and he was poor; and the compulsive teenage gambler admitting to stealing from his parents in order to feed his addiction to fruit machines. And dozens of others.

Why do they do it? Most are unpaid volunteers. Some don't even get expenses. Yet they come and speak articulately about themselves in a way that most of us would not do with even our most intimate and trusted friends.

But perhaps, like the shoplifter, they don't feel the shame that we attribute to them, and therefore have no problem about publicly admitting their offences. It's a new kind of value-free society with a youthful arrogance typified by the *girl who told the chairman of* Underwoods it was perfectly proper for him to pay taxes in order to keep her on the dole if her only alternative was a "shitty job".

No doubt there's also a desire to be famous, however briefly, or perhaps an element of therapy is involved.

Yet this does not explain adequately why those with problems of the kind that most of us would try to hide are prepared to talk about them on television; why someone describes in detail the onset and consequences of a mental breakdown; why another describes the need for sensitive cosmetic surgery; why a middle-aged transsexual and his wife sit together dressed in almost identical clothes and explain how they shop for clothes together; why a transvestite brings along his teenage son to say he doesn't mind his father dressing in women's clothes and having to call him Jane instead of Dad, or why a woman dressed as a man and with a beard, awaiting a mastectomy and ordination into the church as a vicar, wants to tell us all about it.

But they do. And they do it without embarrassment and with great dignity. But while the revelations are powerful they are not necessarily the high point. Some of the best moments occur when members of the public take on and deflate the VIPs and the so-called experts. It doesn't please the patronizing media critics such as Richard Last of the *Daily Telegraph*, who seem to think that only those eligible to be on a brains trust have a valuable contribution to make and who recoil in horror from the prospect of ordinary people airing their views.

But it would be hard to beat the dazed look on Robert Maxwell's face when a young woman berated him for "publishing pornography" in *The Mirror*, or the astonishment of General Sir John Hackett, former C-in-C of the Army of the Rhine, when an ex-soldier said, "Don't tell me to shut up, General. I'm not in the army now"; or the shock of the social worker and feminists when, after they had maintained that children did not need fathers, a 12-year-old boy insisted, "I miss my dad."

They talk all right. But is it what British viewers want? Don't ask me. Look at the ratings.

The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

Old salts licking their wounds

Boxing Day is so rarely celebrated in America that many Americans don't even recognize the term. But it is alive and well in Canada. By the time readers see this column, I hope to be confirming its health in the tiny fishing port city of St John's, Newfoundland, which for very good reasons looks a little like a weatherboard version of a Devon fishing village, and whose population appears to be about half made up of my wife's friends and relations.

God and Air Canada willing, that is. The island of Newfoundland is the eastern-most point of North America, so far out in the *Atlantic that it has its own unique* time zone, 90 minutes ahead of New York, three and a half hours behind London. Its rugged grandeur suggests how the west of Scotland must have appeared before the conifer forests were cut down in the Middle Ages. But around St John's, the pine trees are bonsai-sized, stunted by the same relentless climate that makes winter air travel difficult. It is not unlikely that we will be spending Christmas stranded in some fogged-in intermediate airport.

Newfoundland bills itself as Britain's oldest colony. Fishermen from the West Country were almost certainly wintering there by the time of the Spanish Armada. The Newfoundland Regiment was the only unit from the Empire to go into action on the worst single day in British military history, the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916, where it was destroyed. Until this generation, St John's merchants regularly sent their children to school in England rather than to Montreal *or Toronto.*

British wanderers in North America continually come across evidence of these far-flung links with their land of origin, abandoned as abruptly and mysteriously as the temples of the Mayas. But I find the case of Newfoundland particularly poignant.

Until 1949, Newfoundland was quite separate from Canada. It had evolved differently, its people a curious but surprisingly successful mixture of West of England and West of Ireland. There is a distinctive Newfoundland dialect — the subject of a full-scale dictionary co-edited by J.D.R. Widdowson, a scholar from Sheffield University — rich in colourful words for innumerable varieties of ice and for "useless, good-for-nothing fellow".

Newfoundlanders, in short, were on the verge of becoming another British nation, like the New Zealanders or Australians. But in 1949 Newfoundland was in essence manipulated by the Labour government into joining ("confederating") with neighbouring Canada, a fate it had resisted for generations. The story is too complex and disgusting to be summarized briefly, but the *combination of executive coercion* and staged referendum had distinct parallels to the similar campaign to get Britain itself into the EEC some twenty years later. A distinguished opponent in Britain was A.P. Herbert, the humorist and MP for the old Combined Universities seat, itself about to fall victim to Mr Attlee's gentlemen from Whitehall.

Confederation has been a poisoned chalice for Newfoundland. In the short run, it brought transfer payments from the mainland in the form of various social programmes. These unquestionably transformed life in the cruelly poor "outports" — the scattered fishing villages along the hundreds of miles of coast. But in the long run, these transfer payments have created dependent populations and interfered with price mechanisms that could have stimulated self-sustaining enterprise. Canadian tariffs, by wrenching the economy away from the Atlantic trade, have done hidden damage far outweighing the benefits of Ottawa hand-outs.

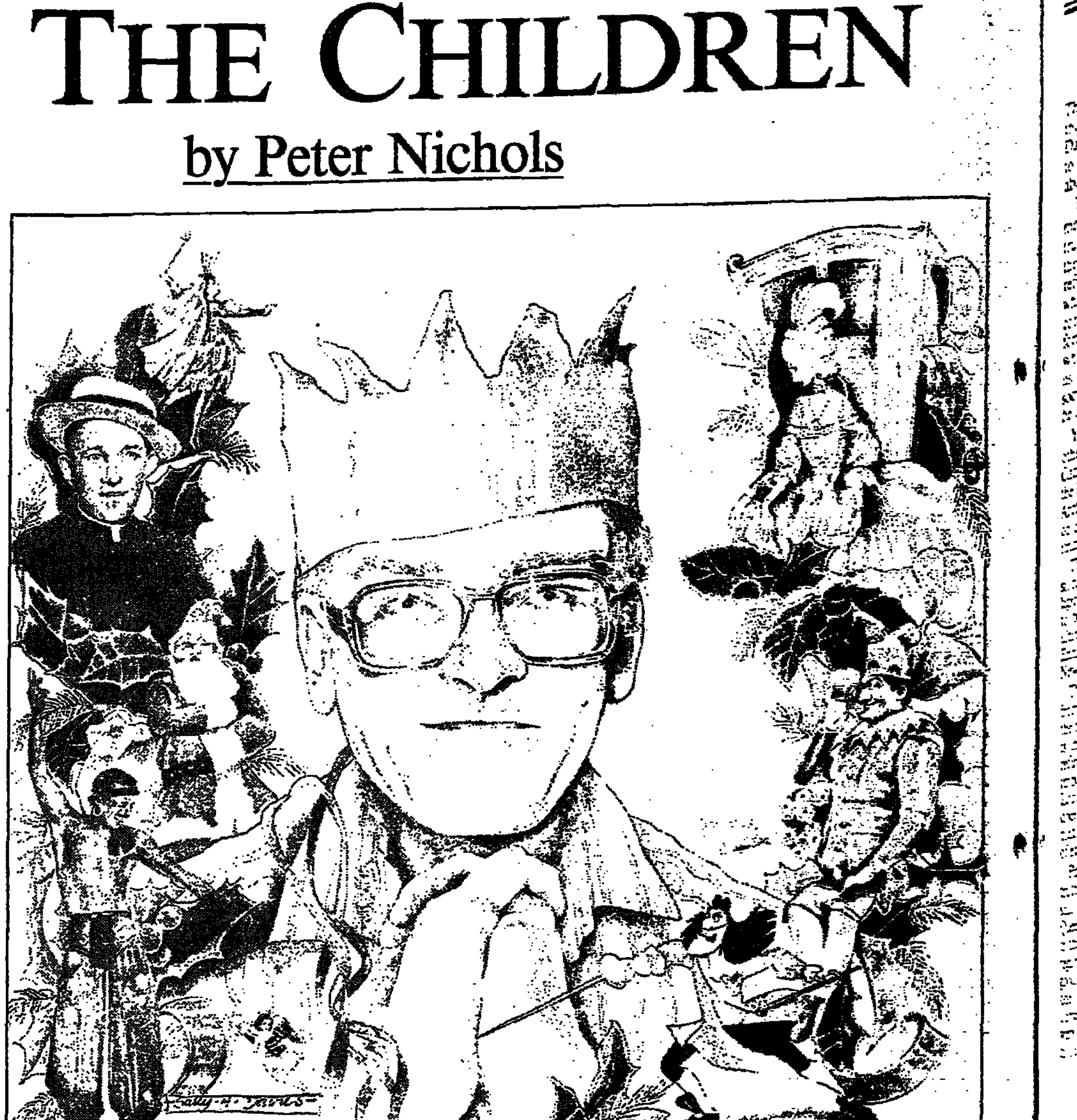
In retrospect it's clear that Newfoundland could have flourished without Canada. Iceland, which chose not to affiliate with Denmark at the end of the Second *World War, has achieved a per* capita gross national product twice that of Newfoundland — and it lacks Newfoundland's natural resources (the development of which, ironically, has been seriously hampered by Canadian politics).

Many Newfoundlanders seem resigned. Like Dr Johnson's Irish, from whom so many are descended, they are a fair people: they rarely speak well of one another. Their collective self-confidence has been profoundly shaken. But they are not the last victims of the mid-century bankruptcy of the political culture of the British world.

Peter Brimelow's The Patriot Game: Canada and the Canadian question revisited, *is published by the Hoover Institution Press.*

A TIME *for* THE CHILDREN

by Peter Nichols



When our children were young and the house rang with their merry cries, I vowed every year that once they were grown and gone I would always spend Christmas in some Muslim or Hindu trouble spot far from the threat of seasonal *goodwill. But now* that they are off our hands and we've moved to a rambling old vicarage beside a village church, there's even less likelihood of escape.

Our parents, children and the first of our grandchildren *will* come bearing and expecting gifts, all ready for another crack at the ritual feast. Such a background stands more chance than a city flat. With nine bedrooms, there's always room at the *inn; holly* grows wild in the garden; over the wall, the chancel's stained-glass is lit from inside by midnight communion; and glimpses of the graveyard from our kitchen win*dows prompt a ghost story* — "Anyone remember one? No? There's sure to be one on the BBC".

A cellar for wood and wine. A dining table long enough to seat *our four generations.* Best of all, the open fire that gives new life to one of the words we use only at this time of year — the hearth. From far-flung smokeless zones they come for the open fire, the *merry blaze that bids us draw near* the chimney-corner and casts weird shadows on the ceiling. "Merry", of course, is another Christmas word. At any other season, it's a euphemism for legless.

"Would you mind blowing into this bag, sir? We've reason to believe you're a trifle merry."

"Certainly, officer, and a legless Christmas to you too. Oops."

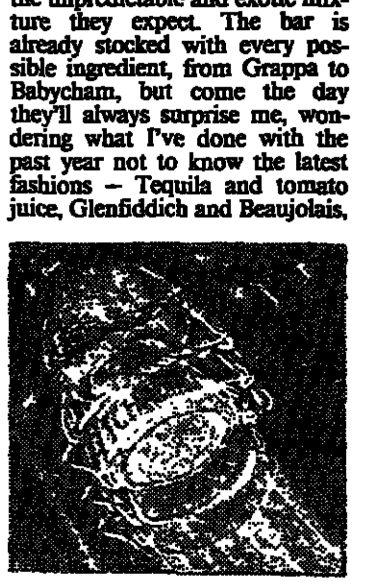
Other words have seasonal meanings too. For "quiet" read "boring".

"Have a good Christmas?"

"Quiet, you know."

No likelihood of that with us. From the arrival of our three parents, all hard of hearing, the house will echo to merry cries of "What d'you say?" and "If you'd stop mumbling . . ." Three separate dialogues are carried on at once, all pitched louder than the up-turned volume of the television, that's never off. This year promises to be easier than last, as my Welsh father-in-law has now got, he tells us, a much-improved urinade.

While daughters, sons and sons-in-law help my wife with food, logs and rubbish disposal, my only duties will be to keep smiling and top up our parents' glasses with the unpredictable and exotic mixture they expect. The bar is already stocked with every possible ingredient, from Grappa to Babycham, but come the day they'll always surprise me, wondering what I've done with the past year not to know the latest fashions — Tequila and tomato juice, Glenfiddich and Beaujolais, Bacardi and Bovril, known to them by such names as Gringo, Scotch Frog or Jamaican Broth. *By the time I've sampled a few* Dallas Daydreams (Bourbon and Brylcreem) I'll be wearing the seasonal smile, a look of generalized goodwill, nodding vaguely at the mounting chaos. In fact, I'll be merry.



It's odd that for most of my adult life I have been an unrepentant Scrooge, when as a boy it was my favourite time of year. My father, being a grocery traveller, *could not only bring home* all the Turkish delight, crystallized fruit and chocolate fingers I preferred to home-made cakes and puddings, but decorated the house until it had the look of a shop-*window* at the Co-op, for which he worked.

The rooms, hall and stairs were festooned with tinsel, chains, balloons, robins and reindeer, bells and balls and a window-display *cracker, five feet long, that he* was always promising we should one day pull in a great tug-of-war. I dare say it was thrown out with the rest of his debris after he died.

Though the word "Merry" was about the house in cursive cardboard, my teetotal, non-smoking father saw to it that there was little of that. My mother was allowed a glass of ruby port, my gran a stout; a teaspoonful of brandy was burnt on the pudding. There the debauch had to stop. The poor man was after the impossible — a Yuletide spirit that wasn't from the off-licence. Adults can achieve two days' goodwill only with full glasses.

It's still a time for children, and during the last 25 years I have watched my own go from babyhood to marriage, and to a start on the new vintage. My first 17 plumpuddings were eaten beneath the roof of home, the next under canvas beside the pyramids, the next on a troopship on the Indian Ocean and the last of my service in the blazing sun of Singapore. They broke the pattern and I lost the taste for years, happiest when I could work — as back-part-of-horse in panto or going down a trap as a victim of Sweeney Todd the demon barber. Being asked to love my fellow humans rouses a latent misanthropy within me that even Pernod and passionfruit cannot sweeten.

In the early Sixties my wife and I lived with our first-born in the small South Devon town of *Dartmouth, a short walk from the* naval college. In this great Edwardian pile the Admiralty threw a Christmas ball from which gate-crashers were never turned away as long as they were properly turned out. *Our friends* — a carpet seller, a fishmonger, a dentist — told us a dinner jacket would get me in.

High on a hill, dominating town and harbour, stands the college, put up when Britannia ruled the waves and always would. The crisp night air with a chill sea breeze, the tang of mothballs from the unworn suits and dresses of our friends, the cavernous, warm interior are still with me from this otherwise fading time, the first and last true ball I've ever danced at. The cadet at the door, dressed as Santa Claus, had already spliced the mainbrace and let us aboard without so much as a "Hold hard!". The ballroom was lit only by lamps on tables surrounding the floor, where grizzled sea-dogs smoked their pipes with a ruminative air. Above was a glitter-ball that cast moving flecks across the dark like driven snow.

On the starboard messdeck was a groaning board — salmon, turkey, ham, flans, fruits and Desperate Dan-sized puddings. What with the flowing champagne, it all seemed the best possible way to spend the defence budget. Later, from a balcony, we watched the eightsome reel, a dance so taxing that only the fittest *cadets were up to it. We'd watched* them in training throughout the year, running the hills in all weathers. The rest of us could barely manage the shouting. All hands were called on deck for *Auld Lang Syne and at three we* were piped ashore.

The next Christmas was more modest. We were back in Bristol, I'd sold no plays and was teaching part-time in a secondary school. We were party guests at the spastics centre where our daughter spent most of her days. Some annual do-gooders entertained — a Girl Guide leader who played the piano for a boy soprano and a woman who sang "I could have danced all night", an unhappy choice for that occasion. Everybody won a prize and the games had been worked out to include the bedridden — no musical chairs or sardines but a slowish round of pass the parcel. The two grown-up boys especially enjoyed applauding. Their hand-clapping was a turn in itself.

During these years I seem to have had one skin too few. Like Scrooge, I saw humbug everywhere. In 1964 I wrote: "Christmas is a time for children and soon the mail will bring parcels of foam-rubber cut into the shapes of ducks and bunnies, while the actual animals will be hanging in butchers' shops. Millionaires will let their accountants know how much to deduct for charity and next Tuesday, at our local gaol and at Wakefield, two murderers will be murdered."

That day, while the rest of us slept, ate breakfast and opened goodwill cards, a small crowd — including Tony Benn — kept a silent vigil at the gates of Horfield. The Bishop led prayers for the hanged man. When he also prayed for the executioners, a man in the crowd shouted "They don't have *to do it!*"

"Yes, they do." His Grace shouted back.

A reporter found "a bearded youth" in the crowd who said "Bristol should have torn down the gates" but the Bishop's was the voice of a city that had always gone slave-trading with a Bible in *its pocket. During the next year* hanging was abolished, that last man going like the soldiers killed on the morning of Armistice Day.

By this time all our children had been born and Christmas took on a pattern varied only by where it took place. Sometimes we went to my parents-in-laws' house, more often they drove up to us in London, bringing my mother, an aunt or uncle or two and a Cortina-full of home-made cakes, pot plants, Space Invaders, Y-fronts and bubble-baths.

Promised for midday, they were always with us by ten, having risen and packed at dawn. "Some people want to get up in the morning" — my father-in-law's usual greeting as he began unloading passengers and freight. "We'd have been here sooner but the police had signs out all up the M4 keeping us down to flipping 60. A white Christmas is all very well but you can't get on." It had snowed the night before, the celestial flymen dropping their confetti right on cue — for once.

"The countryside's very pretty too," said an aunt, "if you had the time to look." From then on, the level of noise and hysteria would rise to the climactic giving of the gifts, the legend of kings and shepherds re-enacted in a state of giddy confusion that had been fed for weeks past by teachers and television, threats and promises, until our kids could barely stand.

The sorting-office around the tree was photographed, the last Snowball supplied to a thirsty aunt and the giving out begun, the eldest child passing them as one of us read the names.

"That's for Grandpa from Phyllis . . . Auntie from me . . . Dad from Auntie . . . Dan from Grandma . . . Grandma from Dan . . ."

Our children wrench gifts from giver, rip them open and strew the floor with wrapping so that it's knee-deep before the job's half done. My wife is trying to memorize the senders and recipients for the January chore of thank-you letters. Above the uproar rise howls of triumph:

"Mum, look. Look, Dad. I've got a stagecoach that goes along and lights up and a cowboy fires and kills some Indians and the cavalry comes and . . ."

"I've got a Spanish dancer's dressing-up set."

"Lovely."

"So what? Look, I've got a *nurse's set.*"

"Why's *he* got a nurse's set?"

"No, Dan, I think that's meant to be for Catherine."

"But I like it."

"Yours is the policeman's set."

"I'd *rather be a nurse. I don't* like policemen."

"This is no time to be moralistic."

"I've got an Indian squaw that comes apart."

"Look, Dan, swap the nurse's set for the guided missile."

"Shan't!"

"Then, Louise, you have the missile."

"Jesus wouldn't like guided missiles."

"Who said?"

"You did."

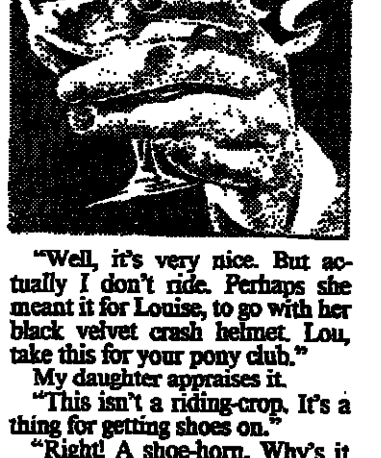
"Dad, look, my stagecoach doesn't work any more. Mend it."

"Play with one of your others. What about this giant scorpion? Says it's programmed for ultimate evil."

"Dad, one for you."

"Oh, thanks for this, Auntie — um, riding crop?" I say, confused.

"That's from Rose, not me."



"Well, it's very nice. But actually I don't ride. Perhaps she meant it for Louise, to go with her black velvet crash helmet. Lou, take this for your pony club."

My daughter appraises it.

"This isn't a riding-crop. It's a thing for getting shoes on."

"Right! A shoe-horn. Why's it look like a riding-crop?"

"Good job I didn't take it. Should have looked a right wally on a pony waving a shoe-horn."

My wife tries to restore order. "Whose is this talcum powder? Yours, Uncle? No? Then Grandma's? Where is Grandma? Gone to get a drink? It's your *talcum* powder, Auntie? Then where's Uncle's got to? No, that's car shampoo. Must be Grandpa's. And whose bubble-bath? Don't lose it under all this paper."

"Look, Mum, a doll that talks. You pull this string in her belly button. Listen . . ."

"You're kinda cute," says the doll.

"Have you had my record token?" calls my mother.

"Not yet. Are there any presents left on the tree?"

My wife calls for attention again. "Listen, everyone, somewhere under all this litter there's an envelope containing a record token. Will you all go through your wrapping-paper?"

Ten minutes' fruitless search later, my mother thinks she forgot to bring it down. It's in her bedroom after all.

"Thanks," I say, when I at last lay hands on it, "very nice."

"I wanna go to the comfort station," says the doll from Auntie Belle in Winnipeg. After this and dinner and crackers, Auntie was usually first to the TV to watch The Young Generation dance the life of Jesus or David Frost reminding us that there are children, even in our affluent society, who have to go without. To me *they seem the lucky ones.*

Luckily the toys aren't made to last and the day after Boxing Day most can be thrown out. We've done our bit to keep Hong Kong and Taiwan going for another year. The guitar from Red China, the world globe from Bolivia, the table lamp made like a chastity belt from India, oranges from Africa, nuts from Brazil. The poor are farther off these days but, as Christ promised, still with us.

Though we are grown up now, this year won't be so different. Living in a vicarage, we feel obliged to go to church at least once. Last year a visiting cleric preached: "You know, I sometimes wonder whether my presents to friends and family are quite suitable after all. And, you know, I sometimes wonder if the Wise Men themselves didn't sometimes wonder if their presents were quite the thing for a new-born babe . . ."

I could imagine the scene as they followed the star.

"Melchior . . ."

"What is it, Balthasar?"

"I can't help wondering about this myrrh, you know. It *is* a boy, after all. D'you think perhaps a rattle?"

"Or a Swiss army knife? Yes. I know so little about babies. What are you smirking about, Gaspar?"

"Well, I got to thinking . . . frankincense? Honestly! So I got my Grand Vizier to run me up a doll that talks."

"Oh, well, terrific. And not a word to us?"

My son was, as always, astonished that Christians could argue about the details of the story, *when the whole premise is so* fabulous anyway; like sometimes wondering if the Three Bears' chairs were Windsor or bentwood or had chintz cushions.

Now that I'm old enough to have claimed my railcard, approaching second childhood, I'm happy to see it all as magic again — Cinderella, Ali Baba, crib in the manger, fairy on the tree, Santa on his sledge of crackers, Captain Hook, Bing Crosby . . . When, like Scrooge, I've taken enough Christmas spirit, I'll believe in it all. This year I'll enjoy myself. I will *not* be the first to crack.

Better go now and check the cellar again. I have a feeling we may not have enough slivovitz or Pina Colada. How are we off for Cherry Heering? God blesh ush, every one.

Peter Nichols became a playwright after five years as an actor. His works include A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, The National Health, Privates on Parade and, most recently, the musical Poppy, about the 19th century China opium trade. His home is in Shropshire.

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TIMES PAST THE TIMES

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CHRISTMAS WORDS

There is the message of Christmas – to be thought about just before, and on, Christmas Day. And there are the Christmas messages – to be heard on Christmas Day, and thought about just afterwards.

There are in turn two kinds of Christmas message. The kind which proclaim eternal truths are about what is always happening in the world. The other kind, the messages which reflect on the year that has passed, are about what has just happened. Some messages contain elements of both. Which of the two forms is chosen by a speaker, or the balance which a speaker strikes between the two, tells us something about the speaker, and the society he or she is addressing – and to which he or she belongs.

Yesterday brought messages from, among others, the Queen, the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Hume. The Queen, the Pope and the Cardinal spoke eternal truths. Archbishop Runcie did so too, but also dwelt on a subject (child abuse) which is the stuff of immediate controversy.

The Queen spoke of how easy it was for passionate loyalty to one's own country, race or religion, or even to one's favourite football team, to be corroded into intolerance, bigotry and ultimately violence. She repeated her horror at Enniskillen, and expressed her hope that the New Year would bring greater tolerance.

These were uncontroversial remarks – apart from the opposition they would arouse among the men of violence and their apologists. But it is the duty of constitutional royalty – when reflecting on the greatest matters, as opposed to important but less cosmic subjects such as the London skyline – to be uncontroversial. That does not mean that the Queen's remarks were platitudes. In fact, they fell within the category of eternal truth.

Platitude and truth are often confused. A truth is no less eternal for being uncontroversial. There have been ages when what the Queen said yesterday was indeed controversial in the eyes of many – when tolerance was not regarded by almost everyone as a universal good. In Britain, constitutional monarchy was one of the means by which we liberated ourselves from such an age. The Queen's words were a reminder that a society, no matter how civilised, must constantly be reminded of the principles which prevent elements in it from reverting to barbarism.

They were also a reminder, sadly, that Britain is more violent now than it was during the early years of her reign. Her message therefore discharged one of those other functions of the Christmas message. It told us something about the kind of society being addressed. Her words also expressed a standard which might encourage that society to heal its wounds. For words which might indeed sound platitudinous coming from an ordinary citizen have a different effect coming from a sovereign.

The Pope warned that humanity should not regard itself as self-sufficient because of the power of technology; and Cardinal Hume warned against "the pride of the mind" – a reference to excessive scepticism about the spiritual world, a scepticism which in the end is the greatest form of credulity since it denies the existence of the numinous and of anything which cannot be scientifically proved.

These were ancient Christian messages. But one does not have to be a Christian, or a believer in any religion, to take heed of them. The excessive scepticism, of which Cardinal Hume spoke, is to the modern world what excessive zeal was to the ages of politically-enforced religious observance. It is the new bigotry and the new intolerance. If Twentieth Century science has proved anything, in addition to discovering things, it is that there is much that has lain hidden about this world – including the possibility that it is a world whose origin and explanation are supernatural.

Dr Runcie, in lamenting the alleged prevalence of child abuse, took up something which has excited media and politicians in this particular year. The coming year might tell us how great the problem really is. It remains to be seen whether it is a problem which escaped the attention of, or was neglected by, previous ages until it was discovered by certain social workers in the late 1980s. But this is not the season to dwell on what Dr Runcie's critics would see as further evidence of his preference for the latest secular cause. His message was also a reminder that the Church should be the comforter of the victims of war, famine and poverty – eternal enemies.

HAITI NOT FREE YET

For the people of Haiti, 1987 looks like ending as uncertainly as it began. Less than a month after the first general election for 30 years was aborted amid scenes of intimidation and bloodshed, the prospect of a return to full democracy remains clouded.

It will soon be two years since Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier was forced into exile – ending 29 years of corrupt dictatorship by his father and himself. A provisional junta took control under the leadership of Lt-General Henri Namphy, who promised free elections as soon as possible. In fact, it took 21 months – and then the elections were aborted prematurely.

The United States suspended military aid and economic assistance following that disastrous November 29 poll. Meanwhile General Namphy, who was accused of secretly wanting to retain power in his own hands, announced another attempt on January 17.

Growing doubts surround these fresh elections, following a new batch of regulations. These seek to ban outside observers, including reporters, from the polling stations – except those who who have been officially accredited. Soldiers will be allowed in – despite accusations of their complicity in the bloodshed last month. The voting system adopted has raised doubts over the true secrecy of the ballot and heavy penalties have been declared for those who challenge the qualifications of any candidate. This last regulation looks ominously like an attempt to protect old Duvalier associates who were banned from standing in the November poll.

In the light of these election laws, the four main opposition leaders announced shortly before Christmas, that they would boycott the January elections. Against this background of suspicion and recrimination, Mr John Compton, Prime Minister of St Lucia and chairman of the Caribbean Comunity (Caricom) called for the postponement of the January poll and for outside help to secure a fairer system.

It is just possible that Haiti-watchers are being over-pessimistic. After 30 years of dictatorship, and with little experience of sophisticated party-led politics, it is not unsurprising that Haiti's election laws are far from perfect. Although soldiers are being allowed into the polling stations, they will be unarmed – unless required by the officials to restore order. The scrapping of the imperfect electoral register is supposedly intended to ensure that as many people as possible turn out – so it is said. There are those who see the new laws as an attempt, however clumsy, to ensure fair play.

As for General Namphy, he has ensured that he will retain control of the army whatever happens. Most see this as an attempt to keep power in his hands. On the other hand again, there are those who think Namphy himself would be happy to bow out, once having ensured that anarchy has been averted.

For the opposition parties to boycott the elections would be unwise. Political parties who have tried this elsewhere – in Jamaica for instance or Guyana – have lived to regret their grand gesture. They concede their impotence. By failing to put themselves forward for power when they have the chance, they encourage in the people the notion that parties are not essential to good government in a newly-free state.

It would have been preferable for General Namphy to seek outside help – from the Caribbean states or Washington, or perhaps from the Organization of American States or even the United Nations, before trying to organize a poll of such importance. As it is, he has done little to bolster public confidence.

The best policy for outside powers, including the United States, would be one of wait and see. But if they do not like what they see next month in Port-au-Prince, they should act. The other countries in the region have it in their power to bring democracy to Haiti. They could do so without risk to themselves or to the world. They should make this clear to Haiti in advance to help ensure that General Namphy does not this time falter in the task ahead of him.

FOURTH LEADER

Come back, Scrooge. All, if not forgiven, is certainly surpassed. There are still eleven of the twelve days of Christmas to go, and a meanie in Scotland is trying to ruin them all. A meanie? Judge for yourselves; the head of the Scottish Communicable Diseases Unit announced – just before Christmas – that there are grave dangers in kissing under the mistletoe.

To be sure, there always was some danger in kissing the wrong girl, but that is not what Dr Emslie has in mind. It seems that there is an ailment colloquially known as "kissing disease", a virus which, while couples are celebrating one of the oldest and pleasantest of seasonal customs, is waiting to pounce, with results that may include anything up to "a nasty rash" or "debilitating flu-like symptoms".

This sort of information ought to have a D-notice slapped on it. "Infectious mononucleosis" is what the gloomy medico calls his awful warning. He doesn't make things much better by adding that only a few sufferers get the worst effects of it.

There is no record of any other health authority thus casting a shadow over the festivities, but it is unlikely that the kissing disease is Scot-specific. (And suppose it were? Why should the Scots suffer?) South of the border, the doctors are either unconvinced by the evidence, or are wisely suppressing it: after all, nobody is going to be deterred from a mistletoe-kiss by such news, and all it would lead to is much looking in the mirror next day for a rash and taking of temperatures to see if the flu-like curse has struck.

No doubt there is already a group somewhere who are demanding legislation that would compel mistletoe-sellers to affix a Government Health Warning to every sprig, reading "Kissing can seriously damage your health". They have missed the point; such a development might reduce the sales of mistletoe, but it is unlikely to eradicate kissing.

Well, at least our Scots sourpuss doesn't blame it on the Druids' favourite flower. He had better not; for the great Culpeper says of it that "it cures falling sickness, apoplexy and palsy very speedily", and if it can relieve conditions as distressing as those, infectious mononucleosis would scarcely dare to raise its head in the powerful plant's presence.

But it's kissing they're after, and the proper response is "They shall not pass". The statistics show that more people have been hurt falling off ladders while trying to fix the fairy-lights on the Christmas tree than ever succumbed to infectious mononucleosis from a Christmas kiss, and nobody has suggested banning fairy-lights or Christmas trees. Kiss on boldly for the remaining eleven days, and if you meet Dr Emslie, stick out your tongue at him even before he asks you to.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

British veto on space programme

From Professor D. J. Southwood and others

Sir, In the welter of publicity following the European Space Agency Council of Ministers meeting in The Hague (reports, November 10 and 11), almost no attention has been given to the only major impact the UK actually had on future ESA programmes. British use of a veto has brought about an imminent crisis in the ESA long-term science programme, *Horizon 2000*. Yet, this was the one ESA programme that was enthusiastically praised by the UK delegation.

The UK was the only one of the 13 member states to vote against the enhanced financial contribution required for the science programme. Financial decisions on the science programme must be unanimous; the British veto stands between our European colleagues and funding that their governments wish to provide for a programme even the British state that they want.

The rationale of the present UK position is not understood in Europe; the British stance seems to hinge on a bald claim that the proposed programme can be performed despite a shortfall of funds amounting to more than 20 per cent by the year 2000.

The Horizon 2000 programme, which was conceived several years ago, will give Europe a world lead in several branches of space science in the next decade. It is only through such a co-ordinated, long-term programme that European science and industry can truly be at the forefront of space-age technology. The additional cost to Britain would rise to about £5 million p.a. by the year 1994.

As *The Times* has pointed out previously, the UK does not have a rational programme for space R & D (research and development). Worse still, our "dog in a manger" behaviour renders us dubious partners in any European collaborations in science and technology in the future. It is ironic that a government which has taken imaginative initiatives in space research, such as collaboration with the USSR as agreed last March, should now be standing in the way of progress with our most natural partners, our neighbours in Europe.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. SOUTHWOOD (Imperial College, London),
P. ADE (Queen Mary College),
A. BALOGH (Imperial College),
G. BRANDUARDI-RAYMONT (University College),
S. W. H. COWLEY (Imperial College),
A. J. DEAN (Southampton),
D. O. GOUGH (Cambridge),
R. D. JOSEPH (Imperial College),
J. A. McDONNELL (Kent, Canterbury),
C. MURRAY (Queen Mary College),
E. R. PRIEST (St Andrews),
J. J. QUENBY (Imperial College),
I. W. ROXBURGH (Queen Mary College),
M. A. SAUNDERS (Imperial College),
S. J. SCHWARTZ (Queen Mary College),
G. SIMNETT (Birmingham),
A. WELLS (Leicester),
I. P. WILLIAMS (Queen Mary College),
A. J. WILLIS (University College),
L. I. C. WOOLLISCROFT (Sheffield),
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Space and Atmospheric Physics Group,
The Blackett Laboratory,
Prince Consort Road, SW7.
December 17.

Things to come?

From Mr Michael Banks

Sir, As a child, I learned that to have a letter accepted for publication in *The Times* was an achievement in life. But not any more. If Parliament passes the Education Reform Bill, it could become damaging. Consider the following three-stage scenario.

Stage one is today. In Whitehall, a Civil Servant is recording *The Times* for official purposes. She cuts out this letter and puts it in a file labelled "tiresome academics".

Stage two is 1990. The Universities Funding Council is meeting to allocate university contracts. On the agenda is a tender from the London School of Economics, which proposes to introduce a new course. The document gives all necessary detail, including the name of the director of studies: one Michael Banks.

The businessmen on the UFC have to assess this tender as one among many, with less cash to dispense than they had the year before. The tender is rejected.

Stage three is 1991. The LSE Appointments Committee meets, facing a necessity to cut academic dead wood because the School is in deficit. However, the members cannot agree on a definition of "dead wood", so they adopt an accounting criterion instead. All staff whose courses cannot attract Government funding are made redundant. Among them is one Michael Banks, who had held tenure from 1965 but lost it under statutory abolition in 1988.

Sir, would you now teach your child that it is a good thing to write a letter to *The Times?*

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL BANKS,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Department of International Relations,
Houghton Street, WC2.

Cancer unit closure

From Dr J. K. Johnson

Sir, With reference to the closure of the Southend cancer unit (letter, December 16), while I sympathise with the clinicians in Southend if they lose a facility to which they are accustomed, there are several areas in England where patients have to travel 75 miles or more each way to a cancer centre of excellence, such as the Christie Hospital in Manchester. With adequate local out-patient clinics, this is not insupportable.

Is a population of 660,000 enough to justify the equipment and staff needed to run a modern cancer centre? This equipment is extremely expensive and lasts only a few years; it therefore makes economic sense to use it intensively – indeed, it should be used during extended working hours, staffed on a "shift system" as should expensive diagnostic X-ray equipment such as CT (computerised tomography) scanners.

Perhaps the NHS could learn from industry in this respect.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. JOHNSON,
3 Cherry Lane,
Dringhouses,
York.

Age-old problem

From Mr Walter Aylen, QC

Sir, I can assist the Rev Richard Hanford (December 17) on the question of the lowest age that can properly be termed "elderly".

The other day, inserting another pound or two of paper into the collection of diverse musings of the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) called "The Encyclopaedia of Sentencing Practice", I came across the case of the suitably named Mr Pornomansy (p2207), whose case was described by the court as "almost the classic case of an elderly man" carrying on his unpleasing activities.

He was 48.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER AYLEN,
2 Garden Court,
Temple, EC4.

Early leanings

From Mr Stephen Clipston

Sir, For some years I have noticed that young children sleeping in pushchairs are much more likely to have their heads tilted to their left-hand side than to the right. Not all of them are so inclined but most of them.

There must be a reason for this tendency but I cannot think what it can be. The thought that right-handed mothers lean over the back of the pushchair to cuff their charges to sleep I dismissed as unworthy.

Is it the same in the southern hemisphere? Political leaning seems unlikely at such a tender age.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN CLIPSTON,
Southwood,
36 Heathfield Road,
Keston, Kent.
December 14.

'Brain drain' factor

From Mr Philip F. Nind

Sir, Since 1946 many tens of thousands of British scientists and technologists have migrated elsewhere, particularly across the Atlantic, after education in this country reaching many hundreds of millions of pounds – not only providing enormous human scientific resources to our competitors, but providing them free of charge.

Somewhere in this equation of loss it must be possible to evaluate the additional financial resources required to prevent the loss of so many highly trained scientists working at the frontiers of knowledge and its application, and surely a model can be formulated to assess this. There is a financial x factor here which it must be within the bounds of possibility to formulate. Until it *is* formulated the Government's policies and plans are based upon unknown, if not false, data.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP F. NIND,
The White House,
Abinger Common, Surrey.
December 16.

In case of fire

From Mr Nikki Sudden

Sir, Although All Hallows School in Dorset have recently formed a fire brigade (report, December 5) and Rannoch School in Perthshire may have formed their own service 28 years ago (letter, December 14), both were far predated in this inspired undertaking by St James' Collegiate, in the county of Sussex, who were operating their own service over 65 years ago.

The tales of the school, far better known to the world as St Jim's, and chronicled by author Charles Hamilton ("Martin Clifford"/"Frank Richards") appeared weekly in *The Gem* between 1907 and 1939. In issue no 695, dated June 4, 1921, Clifford detailed how Mr Railton, housemaster of the School House, launched a School House fire brigade.

This, despite initial deriding from the rival New House, managed to well prove its worth by the end of the story. A fire broke out in a box room of the New House and it was only by the prompt action of the School House fire brigade, and School House junior Arthur Augustus D'Arcy in particular, that lives were not lost.

Yours,
N. SUDDEN,
Meadow Bank,
Hall Lane,
Harbury,
Leamington, Warwickshire.
December 14.

Design problems in US, too

From Mr Nelson R. Rimensnyder

Sir, Cheers to the Prince of Wales for putting the stick to those responsible for deficient planning and mediocre architectural design in the UK and particularly in London ("Building for the people, not 'experts'", December 3).

As a former member of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC, the planning and design review body for Washington), I have long wished someone at the highest levels of our civic hierarchy would speak up about the intrusive disfigurement of the skyline of the capital of the USA. The Prince's observation about the need for experts to come down out of their ivory towers and listen to the lay public is pertinent to Washington and other capitals as well.

Notably, in 1983, Washington's citizens attempted to assume direct participation in a singularly important design issue involving a large block overlooking the White House in the oldest precinct of the city's civic centre. In an overwhelming bi-racial vote (Washington's constituency is 70 per cent black) citizens enacted the Rhodes Tavern Preservation Initiative law.

This Act provided for a citizens' commission of laymen and experts to consult with Oliver Carr, the capital's most prominent developer, and his architect, David Childs, a former NCPC chairman, to seek a design solution for preserving historic Rhodes Tavern (c. 1799), Washington's first town hall and oldest extant commercial landmark.

Citizens had one design solution already in hand providing for new construction to take place around the tavern, with no loss of rentable floor space allowable for development of the entire site. Additionally, individuals and interested organizations with proven fund-raising records were on board to provide design and restoration financing.

Within a year, the considerable political leverage of developers and their cohorts prevailed to crush this "dangerous" citizens' movement. Rhodes Tavern, the only remaining building in Washington passed by every presidential inaugural parade held here, was demolished by authority of the nearly total acquiescence of Washington's elected and appointed establishment.

Yours etc,
NELSON F. RIMENSNYDER
(Historian to the Committee on the District of Columbia),
US House of Representatives,
Room 1310,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC, 20515, USA.

Roots of war

From Mr Miles Copeland (snr)

Sir, I was surprised to read in *The Times* of December 8 the assertion by Sir Anthony Parsons that both sides were taken by surprise in the Arab-Israeli war of 1973, and that the war could have escalated into a direct confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

It is true that our elected officials ignored current intelligence on the matter, but the imminence of that war was reported by the CIA stations in both Cairo and Beirut and the relevant intelligence was passed to the SIS (MI6) station in Washington.

Moreover, although the CIA's "national estimate" to the White House on the eve of that war did not endorse the Cairo and Beirut reports as "definitely true", it did offer a compelling reason why no Soviet-American confrontation would result from such war, even if it did take place: there was no question of the Soviets backing a client state by openly coming into a regional war on its side. The Soviet strategy has been, and almost certainly is now, to bait us into making this kind of mistake, thereafter exploiting it to the limit.

Until this very day Soviet statesmen, including Gorbachov himself, have given assurances to communist leaders outside of Soviet Russia that neither *glasnost* nor any agreement Washington and Moscow might conceivably sign will have the slightest effect on the Soviets' determination to press on with their "world revolution", as defined in January of last year in the periodic revision of Lenin's papers.

It is true that the Soviets, even before Gorbachov, had turned to "competition" as a means of carrying on their side of the conflict, but not even the most optimistic economist in the USSR could believe that they might hold their own in competition with the West as we understand that term. To the Soviets, "competition" means something other than manufacturing a better product and selling it at a cheaper price in world markets: it means preventing us from doing so.

Yours faithfully,
MILES COPELAND,
3 The Green,
Aston Rowant,
Oxford.
December 11.

No cover-up

From Mr John E. Johnson

Sir, Can I add to Pearson Phillips's saga (December 16) of the bowler hat, which incidentally is, I believe, the only type of headgear which is moulded to an exact fit by the hatter?

I used to wear a bowler, and though never in the Brigade of Guards I have been saluted, bowler clad, by the sentry at St James's Palace. Admittedly I had a rolled umbrella in addition.

On the other hand, sporting my bowler I have been the object of hilarious derision on the part of the horny-handed citizens of Coventry.

It's a comfortable hat. I am sorry I dare not wear it nowadays.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. JOHNSON,
33 The Avenue,
Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
December 16.

From Mr George W. Crowther

Sir, Searching for my wife recently in Canterbury's crowded High Street, I was struck by the general hatlessness of male and female, of young and old. Only two other trilbies did I see in my two hours' search and only one beret. I regard the latter as very sensible headdress in winter, but in this area they seem to be unobtainable.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE W. CROWTHER,
Beanfield House,
Gisburn Road,
Higherford,
Nelson, Lancashire.
December 16.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 26 1914

Although the first Christmas of the First World War was not without gunfire, comforts reached the firing line and every man received a Christmas card from the King and Queen. There were also reports of special trains from Berlin loaded with presents reaching those on the other side of no-man's-land

CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES.

ON THE YSER CANAL.

HYMNS IN A RUINED CATHEDRAL.

(By Our Special Correspondent.)
The Belgian Frontier, Dec. 24.

The fighting on the Belgian front during the past 24 hours has amounted to nothing more than spasmodic artillery duels, and local fusillades in the dunes and round the island farms. The fact that the Germans have not continued their counter-attacks shows that a real advantage has been gained.

Thus on the whole it looks as if Christmastime might be marked on the Yser by a lull in the fighting. Christmas in the trenches is a phrase with which we have already become familiar, but it is doubted whether it will have as much meaning for the French and Belgian soldiers as for our own men. The average French soldier when asked about it shrugs his shoulders. "A la guerre que voulez-vous?" He opines that the snipers will snipe as relentlessly and that the shells will search the trench line as regularly as ever . . .

Two days ago a party of English Red Cross men – medical students in time of peace – found themselves in Ypres with nothing to do. They were wandering round the ruins of the Cathedral when one of them came upon the organ, and found that it was undamaged. The blowing apparatus was got to work, and one of the party began to play. The first tune that came into his mind was "Oh, come all ye faithful", and so with the noise of battle booming intermittently in the distance and destruction all round, the glad notes of a Christmas hymn swelled out in spite of all among the ruins of Ypres.

A CAROL SUNG BY BOTH SIDES

(From Our Special Correspondent.)
North of France, Dec. 25.

The thoughts of all English people today have been with our soldiers in the field. Our men out here have, for their part, had no thought for anything but home. I have met many of them today, cheery fellows straight from the firing line, and they tell me that in the early hours of this morning Christmas was already being celebrated with a whole-hearted enthusiasm which seemed to receive an added impetus from sporadic German shell and rifle fire.

I have always been struck, and never more so than during this Christmastide, with the large-hearted, tolerant attitude our men have unconsciously adopted towards the individual German soldier. "We only want to meet him and beat him on a purely sporting basis," said a non-commissioned officer to me this morning; and so saying epitomized the creed of his colleagues in the field. Malice finds no place at all in the British military equipment, and that is why a season consecrated to good will and fellowship finds the hand and heart of the British soldier in sympathy with the spirit of Christmas.

Last night Christmas carols were sung in the British trenches. "Tipperary" was for once in a way ignored. In one instance at least, British and German soldiers sang a hymn together – in tune and sentiment if not in actual words. But no sooner had the carol ended than the cynical Teutonic touch was introduced by a shower of bullets from the enemy's trenches.

The Christmas puddings and the other delicacies have found their way into the foremost trenches in many cases . . .

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Edinburgh is to visit Central America in the New Year. He will visit Costa Rica, Belize, Mexico and the Galapagos Islands, between January 31 and February 18 in his capacity as President of The World Wide Fund for Nature International (formerly the World Wildlife Fund).

The Princess Royal, President of the Royal Yachting Association, will visit Earls Court International Boat Show on January 13.

The Princess Royal, Chancellor of London University, will preside at the presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall on January 13.

The Princess Royal, President of Save the Children Fund, will view the "Childhood Exhibition" and attend a reception at Sotheby's Galleries, Bond Street, on January 13.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Patric Dickinson, poet and playwright, 73; Mr Alastair Dunnett, former chairman, Thomson Scottish Petroleum, 79; Baroness Faithfull, 77; Sir Christopher Hewetson, former president, Law Society, 58; Professor Thea King, clarinettist, 62; Miss Jane Lapotaire, actress, 43; Mr Denis Quilley, actor, 60; Sir Mark Tennant, civil servant, 76.

TOMORROW: Sir Gordon Brunton, former president, International Thomson Organisation, 66; Professor Edith Bülbring, pharmacologist, 84; Miss Marlene Dietrich, actress, 83; Professor Brian Griffiths, economist, 46; Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, 70; the Earl of Inchcape, 70; Miss Pat Moss, former rally driver, 53; Dr J.N.L. Myres, former president, Society of Antiquaries, 85; Professor D.H. Northcote, Master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 66; Sir Anthony Plowman, former High Court judge, 82; Professor B.R. Rees, former principal, St David's University College, Lampeter, 68; Sir Norman Reid, former director, Tate Gallery, 72; Dr E.C. Salthouse, Master, University College, Durham, 52; Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, 53; Miss Janet Street-Porter, television producer and broadcaster, 41; Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, former director, WRAC, 84.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Thomas Gray, London, 1716; Charles Babbage, pioneer of computers, Totnes, 1792; Henry Miller, novelist, New York, 1891.

DEATHS: John Wilkes, political reformer, London, 1797; James Stephens, novelist and poet, London, 1950; Harry S Truman, 33rd president of the USA 1945-53, Kansas City, 1872.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Johannes Kepler, astronomer, Weil der Stadt, Germany, 1571; Louis Pasteur, Dôle, France, 1822.

DEATHS: Sergey Yesenin, poet, Leningrad, 1925; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, New York City, 1950; Lester Pearson, prime minister of Canada 1963-68, Nobel Peace laureate 1957, Ottawa, 1972.

University news

Oxford

Keble College

The following have been elected honorary fellows:

Sir Roy Griffiths, deputy chairman and managing director of J. Sainsbury; Mr Andreas Whittam Smith, editor and chief executive of *The Independent*.

Strathclyde

The following appointments have been made:

Professor: I.H. McNicoll (Applied economics within the Fraser of Allander Institute.

Personal professors: A.S. Carrie (Manufacture and engineering management); W.S.C. Gurney (Physics and applied physics); K.J. MacCullum (CAD centre); I.W. Rodger (Physiology and pharmacology); W.E. Smith (Pure and applied chemistry); P.G. Waterman (Pharmacy); S. Young (Marketing).

1987 RN scholarships

The Ministry of Defence (Navy Department) announces that the following candidates have been successful in the 1987 Royal Navy/Royal Marines Scholarships and Reserved Place Competition:

Scholarships:

Seaman

N A Collins, Victoria College, Jersey: T Dearman, Worthing VI Form College: C Hardy, Radley College: M A S Hughes, Prior Park College, Bath: R E Laverty, Cranbrook School: K Macaulay, Nicolson Institute: O J Medland, North Berwick High School: P P Pitcher, Victoria College, Jersey: A M Southwell, Colchester Royal Grammar School: D A Teasdale, The King's School, Chester: R S Moore.

Engineer

A C Barnett, Ivybridge Community College: G D Drake, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol: C R Carlisle, Calday Grange Grammar School: J Cubbage, The John Hampden Grammar School: K J Cunnane, King Edward School, Birmingham: A S N Goddard, Truro School: J G Higham, Devonport High School for Boys: D A Joyce, Queen's School, Bushey: S D Paice, Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke: N Palmer, St John's School, Leatherhead: J C G Reid, St Wilfred's RC School, Crawley: I M Smith, King Edward VI College, Stourbridge: D M Squirrell, St John's College, Portsmouth: D T Thomson, Durham Johnson School.

Royal Marines

J M Beach, Portsmouth VI Form College: A J Dinmore, Silcoates School: E A Murchison, Rugby School: J H Stocker, Royal Wolverhampton School.

Reserved place:

Seaman

M R Broadhurst, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall: C J Hefford, Royal Grammar School, Worcester: T M Henry, Lycee Francais: A E Jones, Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh: J J Lazenby, Brockenhurst College: M F Pearson, Greshams School, Holt: J C Pheasant, Barton Peverll College, Eastleigh: G Thompson, Dover Grammar School for Boys: K M Walsh, St Joseph's RC School, Workington: G C Wright, Dr Challoners Grammar School

Engineers

C R Baller, Pangborne College: A J Bunn, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol: P G Game, Kingsbridge School: D T Goldsmith, Weymouth College: J A Grummitt, Culford School: H C Kelly, Hardenhuish School: C G Lewis, Royal Hospital School: P J O'Neill, St Boniface's College: N F Prior, Caterham School: C A Squirrell, St John's College, Southsea: J P C Warren, Exeter School.

Royal Marines

P J Edwardson, George Heriot's School: D C M Page, Cranbrook School: A J Shave, Pate's Grammar School.

Andrew Lenox-Conyngham

The dark side of Christmas

St Stephen: the first Christian martyr.

There is probably no time of the year when so many people in England are so fast asleep as early on the morning of St Stephen's Day, which falls today.

For anyone who makes the effort to attend an early celebration of Holy Communion on St Stephen's Day there is a wonderful sense of peace and stillness, whether he be in town or country.

However, it is very likely that he will be the only person in church at that time, apart from the priest.

It may seem strange, even peverse, that the church places three Holy Days, those of St Stephen, St John the Evangelist and the Holy Innocents, immediately after Christmas.

For all the usual exhortations heard from the pulpits at this time to "carry the spirit of Christmas not only into but indeed throughout the coming year", any religious fervour engendered by Christmas does not seem to be able to cover even the three following days.

Which is a pity. For to neglect the message of these three days is to neglect much of the Christmass message itself.

The danger of Christmas is not that of commercialization. Religious festivals have been commercialized from the earliest times and the church has managed to survive that perfectly well.

The danger of Christmas is to think simply in terms of the traditional Christmas message of peace and goodwill deriving from the infant lying in the manger. For such a message can be little more than a vehicle for religious nostalgia, almost an invitation to remain in a state of spiritual infantilism, with a piety based on the baby Jesus because the adult Jesus might be too frightening and demanding a figure.

Such an attitude is strongly at variance with the lessons of the three Holy Days following Christmas, which perhaps is why they are largely neglected. For these days tell us of the consequences of the birth of Christ.

On the first the church commemorates a murder and on the third a massacre, neither of which would have happened had Christ not been born. St Stephen was the first Christian martyr and the Holy Innocents were the young children killed by Herod in his efforts to slay Jesus himself.

The Feast Day of St John the Evangelist, on December 27, might alone seem more in keeping with the spirit of Christmas, but according to one passage in the Gospels it is likely that he followed his brother James in also suffering a martyr's death.

Far from assuaging violence, Christ's birth might seem to have added to it. Certainly Christ's birth was that of the Prince of Peace but one of the lessons of the days following Christmas is that peace can often come, not by evading conflict, but by being prepared to confront conflict and to endure it.

That may apply above all to conflict within ourselves. To take Christ seriously may mean having to recognize this conflict and to allow it to come to a head.

Recognition of conflict as part of a Christian life – that is one of the messages of the Christmas season of which Christmas Day itself is but the first day.

The second message, also brought out by these three Holy Days, may seem more in keeping with the traditional spirit of Christmas.

It is the message of the new life which Christ can bring, for it is offered to all, but rejected by many. It was accepted by John the Evangelist from the moment Christ called him away from his fishing nets to be a fisher of men.

Two other characters of the Christmas season are Herod and Saul of Tarsus, both of whom, in the lessons in which they are mentioned in these days, fulfil strangely similar roles. Herod massacred the Innocents, Saul of Tarsus was, on his own admission, "consenting to the death of Stephen".

The difference between them is that the one became converted and the other did not. Saul of Tarsus became St Paul, arguably the greatest Christian of all time.

Christ brought new life to him. He also brough further conflict – but it was conflict in which Paul was sustained by the fellowship of Christ.

The recognition of conflict, the need of conversion – the danger of Christmas consists in overlooking, amidst the celebration of this time, these two messages of the Christmas season, messages given to us by the Christ child himself, in order to call us from spiritual infantilism to spiritual maturity.

Dr Andrew Lenox-Conyngham is Fellow and Chaplain of St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

Flocks that need watching every day including Christmas Day: Gordon Blakemore keeps 400 ewes on his 150-acre farm at Ivetsy Bank, Staffordshire (Photograph: Philip Dunn).

Archaeology

The tomb of a mystery woman

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology correspondent

A new royal tomb has been found in Greece, close to that of Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, which was discovered in the 1970s.

Unlike Philip's tomb, the new find has been looted long ago, but is thought to have been a female member of the royal family who lived at the same time as Alexander's parents.

The discovery, made this summer by Professor Manolis Andronikos of the University of Thessaloniki, came when workmen found two parallel lines of limestone blocks in the village of Vergina, in northern Greece, close to the tomb of Philip, which has now been restored and opened to the public.

"It could only be a vaulted tomb", said Professor Andronikos.

"The door between the antechamber and the main chamber was half open. The robbers had made our task easier.

"We could see that all the valuable objects were missing, but I had hopes that there might be a couch or some other heavy marble object inside."

The tomb contained a marble throne, decorated on the back with a painting of a chariot and four horses, with figures of Pluto and Persephone standing in the chariot.

"It is an excellent painting and has survived with very minor damage", Professor Andronikos said.

On the throne was found the lid of the *larnax*, the marble chest that had contained the bones of the deceased.

The contents probably included gold jewellery such as was found in Philip of Macedon's *larnax*. Only a small diadem, found under the throne remained.

Professor Andronikos surmises that the tomb was of a woman because there were no iron weapons in it.

They would not, he think, have been removed by robbers, because they would have rusted by the time of the theft, which occurred between 50 and 150 years after the interment.

The date of the burial can be placed at 340-330 BC by the vases left in the tomb, which had no value to the robbers.

That puts it at the same time as accession to the Macedonian throne in 336 BC, after Philip's murder.

"The tomb is contemporaneous with King Philip, and provides an answer to some archaeologists who have claimed that chamber tombs were unknown in Macedonia before the campaigns of Alexander the Great, so that they denied my claim that the earlier tomb belongs to Philip", Professor Andronikos said.

As to whom the tomb belonged, Professor Andronikos said that "it's really too early to be sure," but "I've got someone in mind."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.G. Anderson
and Mrs J. Hunter

The engagement is announced between Stephen George, only son of Mr and Mrs G.J. Anderson, of Neston, South Wirral, Cheshire, and Julia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Hall, of Hull, Yorkshire.

Mr J. Batstone
and Miss S.J. Burleigh

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Batstone, of Liss, Hampshire, and Susanna Jane, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs P.R. Burleigh, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr J. Hall
and Miss S.R.E. Thomas

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Hall, of Bawsey, King's Lynn, Norfolk, and Sara, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs M.R. Thomas, of Hunstanton, Norfolk.

Mr C.G. Subba Row
and Miss K.R. Blane

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. Subba Row, of South Croydon, Surrey, and Karen, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs D.C. Blane, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr J.G. Pallister
and Miss E.A. Simpson

The engagement is announced between John Geoffrey, eldest son of Mr and Mrs K.W. Pallister, of Sevenoaks, Culgaith, Penrith, and Elizabeth Ann, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs T.S. Simpson, of The Smithy, Catterlen, Penrith.

Mr M.J. Hughes-Games
and Dr G.A. Rice

The engagement is announced between Martin, only son of Dr J.S. Hughes-Games, of Clifton, Bristol, and Mrs H.S. Field, of Roehampton, Middlesex, and Gillian, only daughter of Mr and Mrs K.M. Rice, of Bickley, Kent.

Captain A.B. Thomson, RM
and Third Officer S.J. Parker, WRNS

The engagement is announced between Allan Brown, son of the late Mr and Mrs A.B. Thomson, of Carnoustie, Angus, and Susie Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Parker, of Bosbury, Herefordshire.

Mr A.V. Tyrrell
and Miss M.J. Fraser

The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs V.F.C. Tyrrell, of Cobham, and Jane, daughter of Commander and Mrs S.C. Fraser, of Aberdour.

Marriages

Mr M.R. Murray
and Miss H.E. Herbert

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 19, at Our Lady and St Michael's Catholic Church, Abergavenny, of Mr Ross Murray, elder son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Graham Murray, of Little Ness, Shropshire, and Miss Elizabeth Herbert, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Herbert, of Llanover, Abergavenny, Gwent. Dom Stephen Holdsworth, OSB, officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by Kate Maclaren, Charles Heymann and Nicholas Herbert. Mr Gordon Hogarth was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride.

Dr T.M. Williams
and Miss K.E. Anthony

The marriage took place in Islington, London, on December 18, of Dr Tegwyn Mel Williams, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Gwyn Williams, of White House, Barrow, Bury St Edmunds, and Miss Kim Elizabeth Anthony, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Eric Anthony, of Hungerford, Berkshire.

Latest wills

Mr John Dunham Allen, of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,426,698 net.

Jessie Taylor, of London W9, left estate valued at £1,129,372 net.

Mr James Geoffrey Seddon-Brown, of Newby Bridge, Ulverston, Cumbria, left estate valued at £788,052 net.

Mr Arthur Leslie Thompson, of Leysdown, Sheppey, Kent, left estate-valued at £503,755 net.

Mr Robert Walter Ware, of Maresfield, East Sussex, left estate valued at £637,929 net.

Mr Herbert Edward Hill, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, whose firm pioneered the front wheel drive car mechanism, left estate valued at £497,151 net.

Mr Isidore Clifton, of London W9, left estate valued at £996,504 net. He died intestate.

Mrs Mabel Gladys Wells, of Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent, left estate valued at £704,304 net.

Jennifer Brain, of Islip, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £2,634,135 net.

Mr John Leslie Ferens, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,047,962 net.

OBITUARY

DR DOROTHY NEEDHAM

Biochemistry in Cambridge

Dr Dorothy Needham, FRS, who died on December 22, aged 91, was one of a group of brilliant women research workers introduced after the First World War into the Cambridge Biochemical Laboratory. She became an international authority on the metabolism of muscle.

With her husband, Joseph Needham, and with the late Professor Baldwin and with Professor Yudkin, she also made important contributions to comparative biochemistry.

Dorothy Mary Moyle was born in London on September 22, 1896, and educated at Claremont College, Stockport, and Girton College, Cambridge. She remained attached to the Sir William Dunn Institute of Biochemistry at Cambridge from 1920 until 1963.

Although she was never a formal member of the teaching staff of the university's department of biochemistry, "Dolphi" had, for more than 40 years, a profound influence on the people passing through that department. Most of this was due to a unique combination of sympathetic gentleness, penetrating intelligence, and a quiet sense of humour. Throughout her life she retained a certain innocence and freedom from worldliness.

She taught widely and had many postgraduate research students, some of whom later reached high positions in the academic world. Those who worked with her for only a short while could remain her lifelong friends and admirers.

She married Joseph Needham in 1924. Though always close in their ideas and attitudes, the Needhams only rarely collaborated in their research. When they did, it was generally in marine biological laboratories, where they spent their summers.

When the Second World War broke out, Dorothy Needham worked on chemical defence for the Ministry of Supply from 1940 until 1943. From then until 1945 she was in Chungking, in China, where her husband was scientific counsellor at the British embassy and she was chemical adviser to the Sino-British Science Co-operation Office, which he had started.

After receiving the Cambridge ScD degree she became, in 1948, one of the earliest women Fellows of the Royal Society – and, with Joseph Needham, the society's first husband-and-wife team.

In 1971, the Cambridge University Press published her *magnum opus* – *Machina Carnis*, an authoritative account of the biochemistry of muscular contraction and its historical development. The following year she organized, with Dr E. Bülbring, the Royal Society's first British symposium on the chemistry and physiology of vertebrate smooth muscle.

Until recently she was engaged with Dr M. Teich in preparing the *Source-Book of the History of Biochemistry, 1770 to 1940*. She herself was best known for elucidating the link between the muscle's uptake of oxygen and its binding of phosphate in energy-rich bonds.

Dorothy Needham was an honorary Fellow of three Cambridge colleges: Girton; Lucy Cavendish; and Gonville and Caius. She was educated at the first, helped to found the second, and was very effective at her husband's side when he was Master of the third. The last honour pleased her particularly because she was the first woman to be admitted to Gonville and Caius in 600 years, the first woman Fellow, and for a long time the only woman honorary Fellow.

Her husband survives her. The fact that there were no children of their marriage served only to deepen her relationship with her husband. They shared many interests, notably an unshakable commitment to Christianity and to socialism.

Her own chief relaxation was painting in water-colours (gouache); travels all over the world gave her many opportunities for recording scenes which she experienced.

SIR JOHN LOMAX

Sir John Lomax, CMG, MC, who died on December 23, aged 91, was an ambassador who engaged in work unconventional for a diplomatist. He was also an outspoken critic of the quality of much of the more conventional work that British envoys are expected to do.

Most of his superiors came under fire in his highly readable memoirs, *The Diplomatic Smuggler*, published in 1965.

The book took its title from Lomax's wartime exploits in three neutral capitals, Madrid, Berne and Ankara, when he was an active and ingenious practitioner of economic warfare. He sent couriers into occupied France, for instance, to acquire industrial diamonds, and he sought to block Turkish exports of chrome to the Germans.

John Garnett Lomax was born at Liverpool on August 27, 1896, and educated at Liverpool College and Liverpool University. He entered the Consular Service after service in the First World War, during which he won an MC.

His final job was as ambassador at La Paz, which, if not the highest post in prestige terms, was at least the highest geographically. But his achievements in fighting for Britain's trade interests around the world, in war and in peace, had been considerable. As Commercial Minister at the embassy in Buenos Aires in the late 1940s, for instance, he was engaged in important negotiations to augment Britain's pitifully small rations with Argentine meat.

Often, however, he felt that he was not backed up by his Whitehall masters. In Rome before the war he found the performance of the embassy, in the words of his book, "shaming." In Berne, where he went in 1941, he could see nothing but "doubts, timidity and drift."

Yet there was plenty of fulfilment for him in wartime Switzerland, isolated as it was amid Axis-occupied Europe. Britain urgently needed supplies which could not be obtained anywhere else. It was arranged for high-quality gearing equipment to be fitted into cheap gramophones which could be exported through the blockade; the gramophones were then thrown away and the gears fitted into British aircraft and motor torpedo boats; items like theodolites were taken by back-pack over the mountains; and so on.

The only ambassador whom Lomax seemed really to enjoy working under was Sir Samuel Hoare (a politician, not a professional diplomatist). He had little love for what he saw as the old-boy network of career diplomacy.

He is survived by his wife, Yvette, whom he married in 1922, and their two sons.

DR M. G. RAMACHANDRAN

Dr M. G. Ramachandran, the Indian actor who became Chief Minister of the state of Tamil Nadu and who recently was an important force amid the tensions between India and the Tamils of Sri Lanka, died on December 23.

He was an important ally of the Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, whose Congress Party has great problems in south India. But "MGR", as he was always known, was, nevertheless, a critic of the decision to send Indian troops to Sri Lanka.

Marudur Gopalan Ramachandran was born in 1917, in Kandy, in what was then Ceylon. By the 1950s he was one of the best known characters in India, playing stirring roles, often a sort of Robin Hood character, in well over a hundred films. *The Sunday Times* once described him as having the comic touches of Chaplin and the heroic manner of Victor Mature. He was also a producer.

In 1972, he founded the Tamil All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party – the complexity of the name indicating the involved nuances of the politics of south India.

Political themes, it was said, then became more evident in the scripts of his films. Ten years ago he became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the state which has Madras as its capital and which is separated at one point from Sri Lanka by only a narrow strait.

He was the main supporter in India of the Tamil separatist cause in the island. Although it was never publicly admitted, he gave the various armed groups shelter in his state until the recent Indian offensive to disarm the guerrillas.

He was a controversial and highly individualistic figure. There was even controversy over his age, which was around 70. There was controversy, too, over the part played by the young woman who was his propaganda secretary, and who went on to become a member of the Upper House of Parliament in Delhi.

Ramachandran was always photographed in his lambswool cap (said to cover a wig that he wore to hide his baldness) and dark glasses. At one time he encouraged his supporters to have the party emblem tattooed on their forearms.

His politics had a strongly populist note. He once engaged in a hunger strike to exert pressure for help from central government with his state's food problems.

Yesterday, more than a million mourners lined his funeral route, gazing upon his flower-bedecked body laid out in a sandlewood coffin atop a gun carriage, a fur cap covering the head and the dark glasses over the eyes.

Some wailed, others fainted, while others, tears in their eyes, beat their chests, shouting "long live MGR". According to police, some even commited suicide by self-immolation or by hanging, such was their distress.

DR JOHANNES den UYL

Dr Johannes (Joop) den Uyl, who died on December 24, at the age of 68, was a former Prime Minister of the Netherlands who dominated his country's Labour Party for decades.

He was born on August 9, 1919, a basket-weaver's son. He was educated at Amsterdam University, where he studied economics, and was for a time a journalist. He joined the Dutch Labour Party on the day that it was formed in 1946, having fought in the resistance during the Nazi occupation.

He served as an Amsterdam city councillor, chief of a party research office, member of parliament and, briefly, Minister for Economic Affairs before becoming Labour Party leader in 1966.

He took over the party at a low point in its fortunes; but he rallied its members and finally led it into government in 1973 amid hopes of radical reform – which, in the event, were largely dashed by economic recession.

Den Uyl, who had for at least two decades acted as a party ideologue, served as Prime Minister through some of the most difficult years in postwar Dutch history, from the early 1970s until 1982. He handled and survived a constitutional crisis after the disclosure, in 1976, that Prince Bernhard, husband of Queen Juliana, received bribes to promote the sale of American Lockheed aircraft.

The Lockheed scandal presented the Prime Minister with his gravest crisis, and he has been credited with saving Queen Juliana from early abdication by rallying the leading parties behind an agreement not to prosecute Prince Bernhard. Queen Juliana eventually stepped down in 1980, in favour of her daughter, Beatrix.

Den Uyl led his trade-dependent country through the economic turmoil of the first oil price spiral, and he was in charge when urban guerrillas from the tiny South Moluccan community carried out a wave of train hijackings and hostage-takings during the 1970s.

After relinquishing the Premiership, he remained a member of parliament, finally handing over leadership of his party after suffering defeat in the election of last year.

Short and balding, den Uyl was a combative debater, and cabinet meetings under his leadership were often long and stormy.

He fought against the siting of American cruise missiles in the Netherlands, and just as doggedly opposed government plans to expand the nuclear energy industry at a time when the question appeared to command little interest. Since then the question has become a live electoral issue as a result of the Chernobyl accident in the Soviet Union.

WARNE MARSH

Warne Marsh, one of the most gifted tenor saxophonists of post-war jazz, died suddenly on December 17, on the stage of a Los Angeles night club. He was 60.

A disciple of pianist and composer Lennie Tristano, Marsh shared with his tutor an almost total lack of public recognition. His fellow musicians, however, recognized his originality.

Born in Los Angeles on October 26, 1927, he made his first professional appearances with the Hollywood Canteen Kids and Hoagy Carmichael's Teenagers in 1944/5. Army service took him to the East Coast, and it was in New Jersey, in 1947, that he first encountered Tristano.

In 1948, he arrived in New York with the Buddy Rich Orchestra, and stayed on to work with Tristano and another young saxophonist, Lee Konitz, with whom he struck up a remarkable rapport. Under Tristano's tutelage, Konitz and Marsh developed the vocabularies of Lester Young and Charlie Parker.

In 1949, the Tristano group created the free improvisation piece "Intuition", to the success of which Marsh's willingness to subordinate his own virtuosity to the group made a notable contribution. But public acclaim eluded them.

Marsh himself last appeared in Britain in 1984, playing duets with another long-term collaborator, the pianist Lou Levy, and sounding like what he assuredly was: one of the great unsung masters of jazz.

هكذا من الأصل

NEEDHAM

هكذا من الاهل

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?
St. John 7 : 42

BIRTHS

BROMAGE - On December 1st, to Gina and Robin, a daughter Stephanie Claire Frances, a sister for Jenny.

BRADSHAW - On December 23rd, to Frances and John, a daughter, Isabel Fiona, a sister for Anna and Juliet.

CLOSE-SMITH - On December 4th, to Sarah (née Dane) and Edward, a son, Charles William, a brother to Samantha and Caroline.

DAWSON - On December 17th, at Maidstone Hospital to Peter and Susan a son Matthew James.

FRICKER - On December 19th 1987, to Vicki and Peter, a daughter, Natalia Clare, a sister for Hermione.

GLASSPOOL - On December 20th, to Jill and John of Romsey a son, Thomas Alan.

HARE - On December 16th, at St Thomas's, to Caroline (née Allan) and Nick, a son Bertie, a brother for Tom.

REID - On December 20th, to Elisabeth (née Thomsen) and Colin, a son, Thomas Carl James.

THAMES - On December 13th 1987, at Frimley Park Hospital, to Diane (née Griffin) and Kevin, a Son.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

WINDUST:CASWELL On December 27th 1947, at Barnehurst, Kent, Richard to Audrey now at 'Four Winds', West Wickham, Kent.

DEATHS

CARDALE - On December 21st 1987, at Neringah Hospital, Wahroonga, Sydney, Celia Grace, aged 89 years. Dearly loved daughter of George Edward and Mary Constance Dardale (Wyndham), and sister of Dorothy Wells, Philip, Margery Wells, Jasper, George, John and Ted (all deceased), and most dearly loved aunt Susie to their families and cousins and friends to many.

CHRISTAKIS - On December 23rd, after a short illness in hospital Costas, beloved father of Anna and Alexander and Grandfather of Despina, Eftyhia, George and Elly. Prayers will be said at J H Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove London W2, Tuesday December 29th at 6.30pm. Funeral service at Saint Edwards Church at Brookwood Cemetry, Wednesday December 30th at 11am, followed by burial. Enquiries please to J H Kenyon Tel 01 935 3728.

COTTON - On December 22nd, suddenly but peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital, London, Henry Cotton. Beloved husband of the late Toots, and dearest stepfather of the late Nellie and also of Isabel Moss. Funeral St. Andrew's Church, Penina, 11am December 26th. Rest in Peace.

DOLBEY - On December 19th, at her home at the Pediment Aynho. Ethel M Dolbey, daughter of the late Benjamin Dolbey at one time of Buenos Aires and Rosario, Argentina, and friend of Elizabeth Watt for over 60 years.

DU BOULAY - On December 23rd Noel Edmund Houssemayne, aged 78 years. Much loved husband of Henrietta. Funeral service Greystoke Church nr Penrith, Cumbria, Tuesday January 5th at 12 noon. No wreaths by request.

EYRE - On December 23rd 1987, at Sadborow Myll, Commander John Walpole Eyre R.N. ret'd, aged 81 years. Beloved husband of Joy. Father of Evelyn, Elizabeth, George and Carol, much loved grandfather of Michael, Rachael, James and Hamish. Private Cremation, a Memorial Service to be arranged for a later date. No flowers please, but donations if desired for The Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society, C/o W.G. Potter & Son, 1 West Street, Axminster, Devon. Tel. 32063.

GORDON - On December 21st 1987, very suddenly, Pally, devoted wife of the late John Gordon, very loving mother of Adrian, Frances and Alicia Hicks. Funeral Service on Wednesday 30th December at St. Peter's Church, Ropley at 2pm. All Enquiries to Jno. Steel & Son. Tel. Winchester (0962) 63195.

GOUGH - On December 23rd 1987, Alastair Hugh aged 18, suddenly at home through natural causes, loved son of Benjamin Gough and Ann Gough, and brother of Celia. Funeral at Wyck Rissington, Gloucestershire on Wednesday 30th December at 2.00 pm. No letters please, flowers to the church.

GRACIE - On Tuesday December 22nd, peacefully at Sutton Veney House Nursing Home, Warminster, Wiltshire, Helen Margaret Kirshaw in her 95 year, wife of Fred, once wife of William Rooke deceased, mother of David, the late Philip, Christopher, Brian and Anthony Rooke. Funeral at Saint George's R.C. Church Warminster, at 11 am Wednesday 30th of December followed by interment. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Parkinson's Disease Society, 36 Portland Pl, W1N 3DG.

LEIGH - On December 22nd 1987, at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, Professor R.A. of Trinity college, Cambridge, aged 72 years. Funeral service at Trumpington Church, Cambridge at 2.30pm on Wednesday 30th December, followed by interment. Flowers to Brian Warner Funeral Service, 4 Harshel Court, Hartington Grove, Cambridge.

NEEDHAM - On December 22nd, peacefully at her home, Dr Dorothy Needham FRS aged 91 of 42 Grange Rd, Cambridge. Beloved wife of Dr Joseph Needham FRS FBA. Funeral service at Gonville and Caius College Chapel on Thursday 31st of December at 3.45 pm, followed by cremation. No flowers please but donations for Oxfam to R Skeates Funeral Directors, 45 Moorfield Rd, Duxford, Cambridge. Tel Cambridge 833463.

SIMMERS - On Wednesday 23rd December, peacefully at home, Gwen. Dearly beloved wife of the late Max Simmers, and much loved mother of Pam, Graeme, Brian and Maureen, and a loving grandmother. Funeral Service at The West Kirk of Helensburgh, Colquhoun Square on Tuesday 29th December at 2.00pm and private service thereafter, at Cardross Crematorium.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

WHITE-SMITH - In sweetest memory of my dearest husband Sir Henry White-Smith C.B.E. Dec 26th 1943. Always in my thoughts. Millicent.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. 006811 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF ARECON GROUP LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 14th December 1987 confirming the reduction of the Capital of the above-named Company from £10,000,000 to £3,235,070.40 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 21st December 1987.
Dated this 26th day of December 1987

RE: MARION BRACEWELL DECEASED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that anyone who is a descendant of Jeffrey Chadwick or his sons Frederick Chadwick and John Thomas Chadwick who lived at Crawshaw Booth Rossendale between 1880 and 1899 or anyone having any information as to their descendants should contact Messrs. Booth and Barker, Solicitors of 1 Dean Street Stalybridge Cheshire as they may learn something that will be to their advantage.

NOTICE OF CREDITORS' MEETING
IN THE MATTER OF
MERCIA STEELSTOCK LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of Creditors of Mercia Steelstock Limited, will be held at Abbey Hotel, Abbey Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire on Thursday the 31st day of December 1987 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purposes provided for in sections 98 and 100. Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged at the Registered Office of the Company at All Saints Chambers, Eign Gate, Hereford not later than 4 o'clock on the 30th day of December 1987.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Messrs. Edwards Little & Co., Chartered Accountants, All Saints Chambers, Eign Gate, Hereford on the two business days falling next before the day of the meeting between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
Dated this 14th day of December 1987
R J HOGSDEN
Director

NOTICE OF CREDITORS' MEETING
IN THE MATTER OF THE MERCIA
SPRINKLER COMPANY LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of Creditors of The Mercia Sprinkler Company Limited, will be held at Abbey Hotel, Abbey Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire on Thursday the 31st day of December 1987 at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes provided for in sections 98 and 100. Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged at the Registered Office of the Company at All Saints Chambers, Eign Gate, Hereford not later than 4 o'clock on the 30th day of December 1987.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Messrs. Edwards Little & Co., Chartered Accountants, All Saints Chambers, Eign Gate, Hereford on the two business days falling next before the day of the meeting between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
Dated this 14th day of December 1987
R J HOGSDEN
Director

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF CREDITORS' MEETING
IN THE MATTER OF MERCIA
ELECTRALARMS LIMITED AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of Creditors of Mercia Electralarms Limited, will be held at Abbey Hotel, Abbey Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire on Thursday the 31st day of December 1987 at 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purposes provided for in sections 98 and 100. Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged at the Registered Office of the Company at All Saints Chambers, Eign Gate, Hereford not later than 4 o'clock on the 30th day of December 1987

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Messrs. Edwards Little & Co., Chartered Accountants, All Saints Chambers, Eign Gate, Hereford on the two business days falling next before the day of the meeting between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Dated this 14th day of December 1987

R J HOGSDEN
Director

Company Number 1897726
Name of Company: CONFIDENTIAL APPLICANT RESPONSE & EVALUATION LIMITED. *Nature of Business:* EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANTS. *Type of liquidation:* Creditors. *Address of registered office:* 17/18 Dover Street, London W1X 3PB. *Liquidators name and address:* David Julian Buchler, FCA, 17/18 Dover Street, London W1X 3PB. *Office holder number:* 06 3134. *Date of appointment:* 16 December 1987.
Date: 16 December 1987
D J Buchler, FCA
Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF CONFIDENTIAL APPLICANT *RESPONSE & EVALUATION LIMITED AND*
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 27 January 1988, *to send in their full Christian and surnames,* their addresses and description, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned David Buchler, of David Buchler & Co., 17/18 Dover Street, London W1X 3PB, the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default *thereof they will be excluded from the* benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated: 16 December 1987
DAVID BUCHLER,
Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No 006068 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF
COLORVISION PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 7th December 1987 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company as at 25th June 1987 in the sum of £1,898,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 23rd December 1987.

DATED this 23rd day of December 1987
Alsop Stevens of 11, St. James' Square, Manchester M2 6DR.
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No 006686 of 1987

IN *THE MATTER OF SINGER &* FRIEDLANDER GROUP PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 14th December 1987 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company by £36.1 Million was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 23rd December *1987.*

Dated this 26th day of December 1987
ASHURST MORRIS CRISP
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7HD
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No 006500 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF LM (MONEYBROKERS) LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Or*der of the High Court of Justice (Chancery* Division) dated 14th December 1987 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company by £9,824,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 23rd December 1987.

Dated this 26th day of December 1987
ASHURST MORRIS CRISP
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7HD
Solicitors for the above-named Company

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned *before the date* specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons *entitled thereto having regard* only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

MICHAELS GERALD HARRY *of* 29 Creighton Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10, formerly of 15 Ella Road, Crouch Hill, London who practiced at 288 Seven *Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, N4* as an Accountant, died on 11th June 1987. Particulars to Belmont Crayner, Solicitors of 21/24 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4UB, *before* 2nd March 1988.

CAROLINE Albert Edward of 51 The Drive, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire died on 23rd October, 1987. Particulars to Clifford Chance, Solicitors of Blackfriars House, 19 New Bridge Street, London, EC4V 6BY, before 29th February, 1988.

HODES CHARLES 19 Keats Grove, London NW3 died 23rd May 1987. Particulars to Lloyd Cooper Solicitors at: - 7A Grafton Street, London W1X 3LA, before 28th February 1988.

TUDOR, Veronica Anne Tudor, Spinster late of 126 Kinghurst Road, Northfield, Birmingham 31 died at Birmingham on the 28th *January 1988 (estate about* £20,000). The kin of the above named are requested to apply to Messrs., Goodger Auden, 2/3 Lichfield Street, Burton-on-Trent *DE14 3RD (ref: RAR).*

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Science report

Electronic takeover when the nerves fail

By A Special Correspondent

People whose legs are paralysed have been able to walk and even to climb and descend stairs at the Veterans' Administration Medical Centre, in Cleveland, Ohio. Elsewhere, some profoundly deaf people have had partial restoration of hearing, in some cases well enough to allow them to use the telephone.

Both developments have been made possible by electronic systems that replace damaged nerve fibres to relay from the brain the signals that direct the movement of muscles or interpret sensory information.

These neural prostheses, as they are called, are examples of artificial substitutes for parts of the nervous system which scientists have been striving to perfect for 50 years.

The achievement has come from the advances in microchip technology that have allowed other researchers in basic physiology to monitor "conversations" among nerve cells, leading to more understanding of the brain.

With that knowledge, the doctors in Cleveland have devised an arrangement of 48 tiny electrodes implanted in 46 muscles in the legs and lower back. When the patient chooses a task, a microchip computer activates the electrodes in a programmed sequence to produce the desired movement.

Tests of a similar device at nearby Case Western Reserve University have enabled quadriplegics to grasp objects.

However, the scientists stress that the devices are years away from being available commercially. They emphasize that similar work received much attention several years ago and raised false hopes.

The device to help hearing is in wider use for people who have damaged hair cells, tiny fibres on the cochlea in the ear that vibrate when sound is received and in turn activate the auditory nerve.

However, Dr Josef M. Miller, director of the Kresge Hearing Research Institute at the University of Michigan, says: "We are a long way from a bionic ear."

He said the implants might allow some people to understand a simple request over the telephone but "they can't have a conversation of the kind we're having now".

The device consists of a microphone worn on the ear to pick up sound and send it to an electronic processor, which is about the size of a personal stereo and can be worn on the belt. The processor analyses the sound and extracts information about pitch, loudness and other characteristics. This is converted to electrical signals, which are sent to electrodes implanted in the cochlea. They then stimulate the auditory nerve.

The earliest device, developed by the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles and the 3M Corporation, consists of a single electrode. A more advanced type developed by the Cochlear Corporation, of Englewood, Colorado, has 22 electrodes that respond to different sounds and stimulate different parts of the cochlea.

Results of the implants vary. Some people can detect only sounds like a door slamming or the phone ringing. Others manage to understand speech without lip-reading. Compared with the nervous system, the artificial aids are primitive. Normally, thousands of electrical signals control specific fibres in different muscles to produce a smooth movement.

Using only 46 electrodes to do that results in movement that is jerky and mechanical. Moreover, scientists do not fully understand the sequence of muscle movements involved in such tasks as walking. In the tests with paraplegics, the individuals need a walker or some other support for balance, and they tire easily.

One other shortcoming is the lack of feedback. The nervous system not only commands the muscles to move but receives sensory information to make sure a person is maintaining his balance and getting where he wants to go.

Researchers are now trying to develop such sensors for the neural prostheses. Similarly, the cochlear implants do not restore full hearing.

The auditory nerve has as many as 40,000 fibres. Therefore stimulating them with even 22 electrodes does not provide fine enough distinction between different sounds.

Award for comedian

Bob Monkhouse, the compere of BBC Television's *Bob's Full House*, has been named best after-dinner speaker of the year by the Guild of Professional Toastmasters.

The organization's president, Mr Ivor Spencer, said it chose Mr Monkhouse because of the way he has the audience in his hand every time he opens his mouth.

"He holds their attention all the time and he is always fresh". Mr Spencer said.

"He doesn't tell the same old joke over and over again. You feel he has written his speech especially for the occasion and you know he has done his homework." Mr Spencer said: "When he has finished speaking, people say: 'I could have listened to him a good deal longer.' He really deserves the title."

Dr David Theakston with one of the snakes that is helping him in his search for a better snake-bite antidote (Photograph: Barry Greenwood).

The search for the best way to beat snake bites

By Ian Smith

While neighbours feed the cat or walk the dog, David Theakston can be found stroking the head of a puff adder or carpet viper. And it is all in the interests of medical science.

Dr Theakston is director of the Venom Research unit at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in charge of 200 snakes.

Daily the unit's charges are "milked" of their venom by gently massaging a gland above their eyes and then encouraging them to strike at a tissue covered glass.

Once collected the venom is subjected to intensive chemical analysis in an attempt to discover the ultimate snake-bite antidote.

At present non-lethal amounts of venom are injected into rabbits and horses to activate antibodies which fight the poison. The animals are then bled and the collected antibodies used to make life-saving serum.

The method is both cumbersome and costly; the £10 production cost rises to £60 by the time the serum has reached third world countries and for patients needing four injections a snake bite costs their wage for the year.

It is hoped research carried out in Liverpool, home of the only World Health Organization funded collaborative antivenoms control centre, will eventually lead to an antidote which can be injected into all children at risk in developing countries.

Activated antibodies would establish a body defence system which would give life-long immunity against snake venom.

Impact of the research team's success would be immeasurable. In Nigeria and Ghana alone the small, insignificant looking but lethally aggressive carpet viper kills 20,000 each year.

Over the past 10 years teams from the school of tropical medicine have carried out epidemiological and clinical investigations in West Africa, Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, and Equador. There researchers were stunned to discover snake bites accounted for 5 per cent of all deaths in one Indian community.

Funding is now being negotiated to carry out collaborative field studies in Brazil, Papua New Guinea and India.

Dr Theakston's favourite snake is a 5ft puff adder which swells in size to look more ferocious. However, the puff adder is lazy and sluggish in movement and only prone to attack if it is about to be stepped on.

The most aggressive of his snakes is the spitting cobra which demonstrates its dislike by directing a mouthful of venom at those unwise enough to wander within reach.

Services tomorrow

First Sunday after Christmas

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 11 S Euch. Missa Nigra sum (Palestrina). Lux fulgebit (Strategier). The Archdeacon: 3.15 E. Responses (Barton): Short Service (Gibbons). Beatus Johannes (Willaert). Services sung by de Boxtelse Cantorij.
YORK MINSTER: 8. 8.45 HC: 9.30 MP: 10.15 S Euch. Darke in F. Canon R Mayland: 4 E.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 M. Rev I Mackenzie: 11.30 HC. Messe a 4 voci da cappella (Monteverdi). Gaudete (Anon): 3.15 E. The Second Service (Gibbons). O magnum mysterium (Byrd). Rev G Routledge.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch & Sermon. Stravinsky Mass. Jesus Christ the Apple Tree (Poston). In the bleak midwinter (Holst): Canon C Semper: 3 E. Benedicamus Domine (Warlock). Responses (Leighton). Dyson in D. All this time (Walton). Canon C Semper: 5.55 Organ Recital: 6.30 ES. Canon S Charles.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC: 11 Euch. Rev D Adlington: 3 E.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7. 8. 9. 10.30 SM. Puer natus (Tallis). Laudate Dominium (Tallis) O sacrum convivium (Viadana). Carillon-sortie (Mulet). 12. 5.30. 7 SM: 3.30 V & B. Magnificat (Suriano). O sacrum convivium (Croce).
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8. 10. 12.15. 6 LM: 11 HM. Fr P Stodart.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11.30 MP. Wassail Carol (Popplewell). Canon N Macdonald-Ramm
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11.15 M. Harris in B flat. The Chaplain. All sons of Adam (Carol): 12.15 HC.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M: 12 HC. Welsh Guards. The Chaplain.
TOWER OF LONDON, EC3. 11 HC. in St John's Chapel.
TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP. Responses (Alyeward). Sumsion in G. Dyson in D. In dulci jubilo (de Pearsall). The Reader
ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) WC2: 9 HC: 11 M. Noble in B minor: All they came from Saba (Crotch). Rev I Thomas.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 M. Boyce in C. Gloria in excelsis Deo (Weelkes). Rev J Blease: 3.30 E & Carols. Sumsion in A.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8. 5.15 LM: 11 HM. O magnum mysterium (Victoria). Bethlehem Down (Warlock). Rev W H Taylor: 6 E.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9.30 HC: 11 Rev I Bentley: 6.30 Rev S Parke.
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Old Church Street, SW3: 8. 12 HC: 10 Children's Service. 11 M. Preb L Thomson: 6 E. Preb L Thomson.
CHRIST CHURCH, CHELSEA, SW3. 8 HC: 11 Parish C. Rev S Watson.
HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road, SW7: 8.30 HC (1662): 10.30 HC (ASB). Preb J T C B Collins: 6.30 ES. Rev N K Lee.
HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30. 12.05 HC: 11 MP. Rev M Israel.
HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.30. 12.10 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Canon Roberts.
ST ALBAN'S, Brooke St, EC1: 9.30 SM: 11 SM. Missa Eliensis (Wills). Mater Salutaris (Dalby). Preb J B Gaskell: 6.30 LM.
ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 10 HC: 11 S Euch. Rowley in A minor. Carols. Rev J Vine.
ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Parish C. 6.30 E.
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch. Ashfield in G. Candlelight Carol (Rutter). The Rector.
ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, St Giles High St, WC2: 8. 12 HC. 11 MP. Rev G C Taylor. 6.30 EP. Rev G C Taylor.
ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 8 HC: 11 Family C.
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch: 6 EP.
ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8 HC: 10 Parish C. Rev B Callaghan: 6.30 Evening Worship. Rev T Harkin.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC. 10.30 MP & HC. Nicholson in E. Rev D R Watson: 6.30 E.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8. 10. 11 LM. followed by Holy Baptism.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 M & Sermon. The Rector: 12.15 HC.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 9.45 Euch: 11.30 MP: 6.30 Evening Carols.
ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8. 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch. The Vicar: 11.15 M. Fr A Boddy: 6.30 E. Fr A Boddy.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9. 9.45. 7 LM: 11 HM. Missa brevis (Gabrieli). with carols. Fr N Kavanagh: 6.15 E & B.
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8. 11 HC. Mass (Merbecke). Rev D Head: 6.30 Rev C Hamel Cooke
ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square, SW1: 8.15 HC: 11 HC. Rev D C L Prior. 7.30 ES. Rev D C L Prior.
ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Euch. Hodie! Hodie! (Wells). Responses (Morley). Limpus in G. A Spotless Rose (Howells).
ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner Street, SW3: 8 HC: 11 MP. Preb J Pearce: 6.30 E. Preb J Pearce: 7.45 HC.
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8. 9 LM: 11 HM. Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria). Ave regina coelorum (Lobo). Fr G Morgan.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11. 6.30 Rev W A Cairns.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Sunday for Christmas Sunday. Rev K G Hughes.
CHURCH OF OUR LADY, Lisson Grove, St John's Wood: 10.45 Missa qia fu chi M'ebbe cara (Palestrina). Pastores Loquebantur (Guerrero).
FARM STREET, W1: 7.30. 8.30. 10. 12.15. 4.15. 6.15 LM: 11 HM.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7. 8. 9. 10. 12.30. 4.30. 7 LM: 11 HM. Mass O magnum mysterium (Victoria). Hodie Christus natus est (Handl): 3.30 V. Pastores loquebantur (Guerrero).
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM. Kitson in D. In dulci jubilo (Kodaly). In the bleak midwinter (Darke).
AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, W1: 11 Rev Ron F Allison.
CHELSEA METHODIST CHURCH, King's Road, SW3: 11 Rev M Braddy: 6 Mr J Wealleans
HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 11 Rev L Griffiths: 6.30 Rev M Rothwell.
KENSINGTON URC, Allen Street, W8: 11 Rev R Latham.
REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN URC, Tavistock Place, WC1: 11 Rev R Scopes.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2. 11. 7 Choral V. Universagt in allem Leide (Telemann). Rev C Martin
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 Dr Kendall.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 Rev R J Tudor
WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11. 6.30 Rev Dr R T Kendall
WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins La WC2: 11. Meeting for worship

Church news

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Paul Harwood Jones, Vicar, Finchingfield w Cornish Hall End, diocese of Chelmsford: to retire on January 31, 1988

Church in Wales

Diocese of Bangor
The Rev James Ashley-Roberts, Vicar of Holyhead, to be Rector of the Rectorial Benefice of Holyhead
The Rev Andrew Jones, Minor Canon of Bangor Cathedral, to be Rector of the Rectorial Benefice of Dolgellau.
The Rev Thomas Erwyd Pryse Edwards, Vicar of Bangor St David's with Bangor St James, has been appointed Honorary Canon of Bangor Cathedral

Diocese of Monmouth
The Rev Colin Sykes, Vicar, St Philip's, Howe, to be Vicar of Abergavenny and Rector of Llanwenarth Citra

Appointments

Mr Peter Charles Bowsher, QC, to be a circuit judge. He will sit as an official referee.

Lieutenant-Commander Brian Miles to be Director of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. He succeeds Rear Admiral **Wilfred Graham.**

☎ 01-481 1920

ENTERTAINMENTS

☎ 01-481 1920

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Saturday 26 Dec to Saturday 16 Jan	LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET Peter Schaufuss' production of THE NUTCRACKER. Opens 26 Dec at 3pm & 7.30pm. 28 Dec-2 Jan at 3pm & 7.30pm. 4-16 Jan at 7.30pm. Sat Mats 3pm. No Sunday performances £4.50, £7.50, £10.50, £13, £15.50 Concessions info 01-928 3002 LFB
Sunday 27 Dec 3.00 pm & 7.30 pm	JOHANN STRAUSS GALA Johann Strauss Orchestra dir from the violin by John Bradbury. Ann James (sop) Johann Strauss Dancers in costume. Music of the Strauss family incl Marches, Galops, Waltzes & Polkas. 3pm perf £3.50, £5, £7, £9, £10.50 7.30pm perf £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Sunday 3 Jan 7.30 pm	CLASSICAL FAVOURITES Wren Orchestra Bramwell Tovey (cond) Craig Sheppard (pno) Mendelssohn Overture, The Hebrides. Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Greensleeves. Grieg Piano Concerto. Dvorak Symphony No 9 (From the New World) £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £8.50 £10, £11.50, £12.50 Victor Hochhauser: Capital Radio

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

26 Dec to 3 Jan at 7.45. Sun Mats 3 pm	MONSIEUR OFFENBACH'S CHRISTMAS PARTY. London Concert Orchestra, Chorus & Dancers Simon Phipps (cond) A rumbustuous Christmas revelry incl fully costumed excerpts from La Belle Hélène, Orpheus in the Underworld, La Vie Parisienne, The Tales of Hoffmann and others £5, £6.50, £8.50, £10.50, £12.50 South Bank Board/Raymond Gubbay
Tue & Wed 5 & 6 Jan 8 pm	THE HEN PARTY presents Two Nights of Women on the South Bank. Vi Subversa songs from the leader of the Poison Girls. Hope Augustus black blues balladeer. Donna & Kebab the Greek Frank Chickens, Anna Palm violin & voice. The Cholmondeleys: The Rhythm Sisters £4 (UB40 £3) South Bank Board/Speakout
Thursday 7 Jan 6.00 pm	PEGASUS Richard Crossland (conductor) Bach Der Geist hilft. Ockeghem Missa Fors seulement All seats £2 Pegasus
Thursday 7 Jan 7.45 pm	MOZART FORTEPIANO SERIES The English Baroque Soloists John Eliot Gardiner (cond) Malcolm Bilson (fortepiano) Mozart Symphony No 32. Piano Concerto in C minor K 491. Symphony No 36 (Linz) £4 £6.50, £9 Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra Ltd

PURCELL ROOM

Sun 27 & Mon 28 Dec at 3.30 pm	TIM BAT A show for all the family from juggler, magician and comedian Tim Bat as featured on TV AM's Wide Awake Club All seats £2.50 The South Bank Board/Speakout
Sun 27 to Thu 31 Dec 8.30 pm	JOAN COLLINS FAN CLUB CHRISTMAS SHOW Uncanny & Unusual The City Limits Best Cabaret Act of 1987 returns after appearances on 'Saturday Live' & the Steve Wright Show, with Fanny the Wonderdog & special guest Russell Churney. All seats £4 Students/OAPs/UB40 £2 The South Bank Board/Speakout
Tue 29 to Thu 31 Dec at 3.30 pm	PALIR THE CLOWN The Laughology Show. Had any trouble with your funny bone lately? Perhaps you are overdue for an injection of the powerful serum "laughozone". Bring the family to consult Palir, the world's leading consultant laughologist. All seats £2.50 The South Bank Board/Speakout

MONSIEUR OFFENBACH'S CHRISTMAS PARTY IN FULL COSTUME
QEH 26 December – 3 January

WIGMORE HALL

36 Wigmore Street London W1H 9DF
Manager William Lyne MBE Box office 01 935 2141 Mailing list £3

Wednesday 30 Dec 7.30 pm	PETER FRANKL piano London Pianoforte Series. Schubert: 3 Klavierstücke D946, 6 Moments Musicaux D780. Chopin: 4 Mazurkas Op 30, 2 Polonaises Op 26, 4 Mazurkas Op 24, Andante spianato and Grande Polonaise Op 22 £6, £5, £4, £3
Thursday 31 Dec 7.30 pm	THE SONGMAKERS' ALMANAC. Song Recital Series. Patricia Rozario sop/Sarah Walker mezzo sop/Adrian Thompson ten/Richard Jackson bar/Graham Johnson piano. An 1888 Almanac. Will the New Year be as rich in song as 1888. Songs by Wolf, Fauré, Brahms etc £6.50, £5.50 (all others sold)
Friday 1 Jan 7.30 pm	NEW YEAR'S DAY CONCERT LUCIA POPP soprano. GEOFFREY PARSONS piano. Schumann: Frauenliebe und Leben, Schubert: Lieder; Strauss: Lieder, Schoenberg: Lieder Op 2 Stalls £15 (all others sold)
Saturday 2 Jan 7.30 pm	GABRIELI CONSORT & PLAYERS. Director Paul McCreesh. E. M. & Bar. Ser. New Year in 17thC. Germany. Fanfares, sonatas, a battaglia, seasonal motets & polychoral concert by Schütz, Praetorius & Scheidt, Biber's sublime requiem for strings, sackbuts & voices. £7.50, £6.50, £5.50, £4
Sunday 3 Jan NB: starting time: 4 pm	ENDYMION ENSEMBLE. Director: John Whitfield. Prunella Scales/Ian Partridge/Stephen Varcoe. Paris 1880-1930. Poulenc: Sonata for clarinet & bassoon, Le Bestiaire, Cocardes, Sonata for horn, trumpet & trombone. Walton: Façade £6, £5, £4, £3
Monday 4 Jan 7.30 pm	RICHARD LUBY baroque & classical violin/RICHARD STONE theorbo / IVOR BOLTON harpsichord / LINDA NICHOLSON fortepiano. Sonatas by Marini & Castello (violin/theorbo), Corelli & Geminiani (violin & harpsichord), Schubert: Sonata in A D574, Rondo in B minor D895 £5, £4, £3, £2.50 Jane Gray
Tuesday 5 Jan 7.30 pm	DIVERTIMENTI. Tchaikovsky: Sextet Op 70 'Souvenir de Florence'; Lutoslawski: 4 Silesian Melodies; Mendelssohn: Octet in E flat Op 20 £5, £4, £3, £2.50
Wednesday 6 Jan 7.30 pm	ANDRAS SCHIFF piano London Pianoforte Series JS Bach: English Suite No 1 in A, English Suite No 3 in G minor, 15 Two-part Inventions, English Suite No 5 in E minor. £7.50, £6.50, £5.50 (all others sold)
Thursday 7 Jan 7.30 pm	BRITTEN STRING QUARTET. Beethoven: Quartet in G Op 18 No 2; Schnittke: Quartet No 3; Schubert: Quartet in D minor D810 'Death and the Maiden' £5, £4, £3, £2.50 Young Concert Artists Trust
Friday 8 Jan 7.30 pm	THE BROADSIDE BAND. JOHN POTTER tenor. E. M. & Bar. Ser. Jeremy Barlow dir. 16th & 17th century dance & popular music from England, France, Italy, Spain inc dances from Arbeau's 'Orchésographie', music for Shakespeare & Spanish music of the same period. £5, £4, £3, £2.50 Charles McK Finch

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
THURSDAY 7 JANUARY at 7.45 pm

Mozart Fortepiano Series
JOHN ELIOT GARDINER

English Baroque Soloists
Malcolm Bilson, fortepiano
Symphony No. 32 K.318 Piano Concerto No. 24 K.491
Symphony No. 36 K.425 "Linz"
Tickets: £9, £6.50, £4 Box Office 01-928 3191 C.C. 01-928 8800

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 CC 240 5258. **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA.** Theatre closed 26,27,28 Dec. Next perfs Tue 7:30 Hansel & Gretel Wed 7:30 Barber of Seville.

Royal Festival Hall 928 3191. CC 928 8800. Until 16 January. Eves 7.30pm. Mats 3.00pm (26 Dec. 28 Dec - 2 Jan incl. & Sats) **LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET THE NUTCRACKER** (Schaufuss) Mat: Truglia / Armand / Johnson / Sevillano / Skoog / Larsen / Pettinelli Ton't: Mulligan / Schaufuss / Bruce / Gee / Cazzia / Larsen / Pettinelli Tickets from £4.50.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240 1066/1911. Stdby info 836 6903. S CC 65 amphi seats avail on the day. Ton't, Mon 7.30. Today Mat 2.30 **THE ROYAL BALLET** Cinderella. Ballet casting info 01 240 9815

SADLER'S WELLS 278 8916 First Call CC 24 hr 7 day 240 7200 Until 2 Jan. Eves 7.30 pm. No Perf today. tomor **MICHAEL CLARK & COMPANY** in Because We Must. Patrons may find some scenes offensive. From Tues 5 Jan SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET The Snow Queen

THEATRES

ADELPHI 836 7611 or 240 7913 /4 CC 741 9999/ 836 7358/ 379 4444 Grp Sales 930 6123 First Call 24hr cc 240 7200 (no bkg fee) NOW BOOKING TO APRIL 2 WINNER OF THREE MAJOR "BEST MUSICAL" AWARDS 1985 KARL HOWMAN LOUISE ENGLISH ME AND MY GIRL THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL Directed by Mike Ockrent Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00 "THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN" S Express

APOLLO 437 2663 CC 434 3598 CC with bkg fee First Call 24hr/7days 240 7200/CCTB 741 9999/Open All Hours 379 4444 Group Sales 930 6123 "NICELY NERVE-RACKED EVENING" E.Shorter DINSDALE LANDEN CAROL DRINKWATER and JEREMY BULLOCH in DANGEROUS OBSESSION Gripping new thriller by N J Crisp "Powerfully applies the tricks of suspense" Times. "HOLDS YOUR NERVES AT GUNPOINT...TENSION JUNKIES WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED" D. Mail Eves 8pm. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. Mats Thu 3.00pm

AMBASSADORS 01-836 6111/2 cc 836 1171. First Call (24 hrs/7 days) 240 7200 (bkg fee). Eves 7.30, Wed mat 3, Sat 4 & 8 Royal Shakespeare Company's LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES Winner of 4 "BEST PLAY" awards. Some tickets avail Mats NOW BOOKING TO JUNE '88

ALBERY 836 3878 cc 379 6565 741 9999 379 4444 240 7200 Groups 836 3962 NICHOLAS LYNDHURST "The deadpan vulnerability of a Laurel or a Keaton SUCH SHINING TALENT" Daily Mail In Larry Shue's New Comedy THE FOREIGNER "WONDERFULLY DROLL" D. Express "The funniest play of the decade" NY Times Eves 8 Mats Thurs & Sat 3

ALDWYCH 01 836 6404/0641 cc 379 6233/741 9999 First call 240 7200 (bkg fee) Eves 7.30. Saturday 5 & 8.30 FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY MICHAEL GAMBON BEST ACTOR OF THE YEAR Standard Drama Award In National Theatre production of A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE By Arthur Miller Directed by Alan Ayckbourn

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Party bkgs 828 6188 CC Open All Hours 379 4444 1st Call 240 7200 K Prowse 741 9999 Grps 930 6123 Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0 "OVERWHELMING" D.Tel STARLIGHT EXPRESS Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER Lyric by RICHARD STILGOE Directed by TREVOR NUNN SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK OAP's £5 on Tues mats NOW BOOKING TO SEPT '88 NO PERF TODAY

ARTS THEATRE Gt Newport St. WC2 836 2132 cc 741 9999 GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S CANDIDA "Comic through and through" Times. Prevs Jan 6 Opens Jan 12

BARBICAN THEATRE 01 638 8891cc (Mon-Sun 10am-8pm) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY TODAY. Tues, Thurs 2.00 & 7.30. Mon, Wed, Fri 7.30. THE WIZARD OF OZ "MARVELLOUS SHOW...MAGICAL" Times Few tickets still avail for 6, 7 Jan. Further perfs: 18-23 Jan. 8-13, 22-27 Feb. (Groups 930 6123) THE PIT TODAY, Mon, Tues 7.30 SPECULATORS by Tony Marchant OLD YEAR'S EVE rtns 30 Dec Students £4.50 in advance

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE Earlham St. WC2 Box Office & CC 01-379 5299 (NO BKG FEE), CC 1st Call 24hr/7 day 240 7200 (NO BKG FEE), CCTB 741 9999 (NO BKG FEE) & Open All Hrs 379 4444 (BKG FEE). Group Sales 930 6123 LULU GEORGE COLE JAN HARVEY PETER PAN Mon to Sat 2.30 & 7.30

COMEDY 01-930 2578/8778 cc 839 1438 & 741 9999 Group Sales 930 6123 "A NEW ROMANCE CAN HARDLY FAIL TO MOVE" City Limits DAVID SUCHET SASKIA REEVES "Very funny. Kill for a ticket" Ms London SEPARATION by Tom Kempinski directed by Michael Attenborough "A BLAZING DUET OF A PLAY. REEVES AND SUCHET RAISE THE ROOF" Sun Times. Mon-Thu 8.0, Fri & Sat 6.0 & 8.45

BARBICAN

CC 01-638 8891 10am–8pm daily
Owned, funded and managed by the Corporation of the City of London

Seat prices available at time of going to press

Today 26 Dec 3.30pm	SPANISH FIESTA Carlos Bonell guitar and ensemble inc. Mara Del Sol flute. Guest dancers Beatriz Perez, Rosario Serrano, Maribel 'La Manchega' Singer Antonio Sevilla, Ian Davies guitar. Music, songs and dances of Spain £11.50, £9.50, £7.50, £5.50 children under 16 half price Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Ton't 26 Dec 7.45pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Barry Wordsworth cond Malcolm Binns piano Beethoven: Ov. Egmont; Piano Concerto No 5 'Emperor'; Symphony No 5 £12.50, £11.50, £10.50, £9, £7, £5.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Tomor 27 Dec 3.00pm	ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Philip Ledger cond Jack Brymer clarinet José-Luis Garcia violin Handel: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba Mozart: Eine kleine Nachtmusik; Clarinet Concerto Vivaldi: The Four Seasons £11.50, £10 ONLY. ALL OTHERS SOLD Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Tomor 27 Dec 7.30pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Cesare Civetta cond Leslie Howard piano Rossini: Ov. 'William Tell' Sibelius: Finlandia. Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No 1 Dvorak: Symphony No 9 'From the New World' Raymond Gubbay Ltd £12.50, £11.50, £10.50 ONLY. ALL OTHERS SOLD
Tue 29 Dec 3.00pm	THE SNOWMAN Sinfonia of London Howard Blake cond Johnny Morris narrator James Rainbird boy soprano Howard Blake's 'The Snowman' with 'Walking in the Air' plus 'The Nursery Rhymes' Ov. & 'The Remarkable Rocket' Raymond Gubbay Ltd Adults £8.50, £7.50, £6, Children £5.50, £4.50, £3.50
Tue 29 Dec 7.45pm	CHRISTMAS LOVE CLASSICS London Concert Orchestra Nicholas Cleobury cond. Piers Lane piano Prog. inc Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 2 Bizet: 'Carmen' Suite Ravel: Boléro, and Christmas rose for each lady in audience £11.50, £10 ONLY. ALL OTHERS SOLD Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wed 30 Dec 3.00pm	FAMILY CLASSICS London Concert Orchestra intro & cond. Bramwell Tovey, Joanna Macgregor piano Prog. inc Rossini: Ov. Barber of Seville Grieg: Piano Concerto Strauss: Blue Danube Elgar: Pomp & Circumstance. Tchaikovsky 1812 Ov. £9.50, £8.50, £6.50 ONLY Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wed 30 Dec 7.45pm	OPERA GALA NIGHT London Concert Orchestra Dennis O'Neill tenor Eirean Davies sop. Andrew Greenwood cond. Fanfare Trumpeters from Band of Welsh Guards, London Chorale, Expts. from 'Nabucco', 'Rigoletto', 'La Traviata' 'Turandot' 'Manon Lescaut' 'Aida' £16.50, £12.50 ONLY. ALL OTHERS SOLD Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Thu/Fri 31/1 Jan 7.45pm	LSO VIENNESE EVENING London Symphony Orchestra John Georgiadis cond Music and dances by the Strauss family RETURNS ONLY
Sat 2 Jan 3.00pm	LSO NEW YEAR CHILDREN'S SPECIAL London Symphony Orchestra with Jonathan Cohen. A New Year's family concert, music and singing for the whole family Adults £4.50, Children under 16 £2 Part of BARBICAN FUN DAY. A great day out for the whole family. For details ring 01-638 4141
Sat 2 Jan 7.45pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Wyn Morris conductor David Golub piano Rossini: Ov. 'William Tell' Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 2 Beethoven: Symphony No 6 'Pastoral' £12.50, £10.50, £6.50, £3.50 ONLY
Sun 3 Jan 7.30pm	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Owain Arwel Hughes cond. Stephen Hough piano Dvorak: Carnival Overture; Mozart: Piano Concerto No 21 in C Rimsky-Korsakov: Sheherazade £12.50, £10.50, £8.50, £6.50, £5, £3.50
Mon 4 Jan 7.45pm	WILD WEST POPS Royal Philharmonic Pops Orchestra Michael Reed cond Buffalo Bill narr. Mary Carewe, Lindsay Benson singers Showgirls from El Salon Mexico. Music incl Gone with the Wind, High Noon, The Big Country £12.50, £11.50, £10, £8.50, £6.50, £5.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Tue 5 Jan 7.45pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Jane Glover cond Yvonne Kenny, Penelope Walker, Kenneth Woollam, David Wilson Johnson, London Choral Society Mozart: Symphony No 39, K543 Beethoven: Symphony No 9 'Choral' £14, £12, £10, £8, £6 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wed 6 Jan 7.45pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Sir Colin Davis cond. Murray Perahia piano Stravinsky: Dumbarton Oaks Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor Sibelius: The Swan of Tuonela: Symphony No 7 £15, £13, £11, £9, £7, £5 SPONSORED BY RANK XEROX
Thu 7 Jan 7.45pm	HUMPHREY LYTTLETON Jazz in the New Year Celebrating 40 years as bandleader with Humphrey Lyttleton and his Band, Mr Acker Bilk & his Paramount Jazz Band and special guest from New Orleans Lillian Boutté, star of 'One Mo Time' £11.50, £9.50, £7.50, £5 Norman Meadmore Ltd
Fri 8 Jan 7.45pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – A Theme with Variations opening concert Sir Colin Davis cond. John Williams guitar Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis Steve Gray: Guitar Concerto (world premiere) Elgar: Symphony No 1 £13, £11, £9, £7, £5 ONLY SPONSORED BY UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND
6.30pm	Pre-concert talk by Steve Gray. Admission Free

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA at the Barbican

LSO TWO CONCERTS ON 2 JANUARY
3.00pm

NEW YEAR CHILDREN'S SPECIAL

A New Year's family concert specially devised, presented and conducted by
JONATHAN COHEN

Adults £4.50 Children under 16 £2

LSO 7.45pm

ROSSINI .... Overture 'William Tell'
RACHMANINOV ... Piano Concerto No 2
BEETHOVEN .... 'Pastoral' Symphony

WYN MORRIS conductor
DAVID GOLUB piano
Seat Prices £12.50 £10.50 £6.50 £3.50 ONLY

Two Concerts conducted by

SIR COLIN DAVIS

LSO WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 7.45pm

STRAVINSKY .... Dumbarton Oaks
GRIEG .... Piano Concerto in A minor
SIBELIUS .... The Swan of Tuonela
SIBELIUS .... Symphony No 7 in C

MURRAY PERAHIA piano
SPONSORED BY RANK XEROX
Seat Prices £15 £13 £11 £9 £7 £5

LSO FRIDAY 8 JANUARY 7.45pm

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS .... Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis
STEVE GRAY .... Guitar Concerto *World premiere*
ELGAR .... Symphony No 1

JOHN WILLIAMS guitar
SPONSORED BY UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND
Seat Prices £13 £11 £9 £7 £5 ONLY

Box Office Tel *10-8* every day inc. Sun 01-638 8891/628 8795

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 7.30pm Barbican Hall

"MUCH LOVED MUSIC"

DVOŘÁK .... Carnival Overture
MOZART .... Piano Concerto No 21
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV .... Sheharazade

STEPHEN HOUGH piano
OWAIN ARWEL HUGHES conductor
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

£12.50 £10.50 £8.50 £6.50 £5 £3.50 01-638 8891/628 8795

Norman Meadmore Ltd. presents at the Barbican
THURSDAY 7TH JANUARY AT 7.45 PM

JAZZ IN THE NEW YEAR

Celebrating Humphrey Lyttelton's 40th year as a bandleader
HUMPHREY LYTTELTON & HIS BAND
with
MR ACKER BILK AND HIS PARAMOUNT JAZZ BAND
and special guest from New Orleans
LILLIAN BOUTTE
£11.50 £9.50 £7.50 £5 01-638 8891/628 8795

Norman Meadmore Ltd. presents THE LONDON SAVOYARDS at the Barbican

SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY AT 7.45 PM
"LOVE IS A PLAINTIFF SONG"
Scenes of unrequited love
from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas in full costume
including a complete staged performance of

TRIAL BY JURY

Peter Gale The Learned Judge Vivian Tierney The Plaintiff
Geoffrey Shovelton The Defendant Paul Hudson The Usher
Michael Wakeham Counsel and Jill Pert
New Concert Orchestra London Savoyards Chorus
Sally Gilpin Chor. Richard Balcombe Cond. Terry Jenkins Dir.
£13.50 £12 £10 £8.50 £7 01-638 8891/628 8795

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
at the BARBICAN
Box Office/CC 01-628 8795/638 8891

TODAY at 3.30 p.m.

SPANISH FIESTA

RG CARLOS BONELL guitar with his Ensemble inc. MARA DEL SOL (flute & panpipes) and special guest dancers BEATRIZ PEREZ, ROSARIO SERRANO, MARIBEL 'LA MANCHEGA' in full Spanish costumes with singer ANTONIO SEVILLA & IAN DAVIES guitar
The music, songs and dances of Spain, inc. Falla: El Amor Brujo (excerpts); Rodrigo Guitar Solos; Spanish Folk Songs, Flamencos, Tangos and Boleros.
£5.50, £7.50, £9.50, £11.50 Children (under 16) Half Price

TONIGHT at 7.45 p.m.

BEETHOVEN EVENING

RG Egmont Overture
Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor);
Symphony No. 5
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: BARRY WORDSWORTH
MALCOLM BINNS piano
£5.50, £7, £9, £10.50, £11.50, £12.50

TOMORROW at 3 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

RG Handel ...ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA
Mozart ....EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK
Mozart ....CLARINET CONCERTO
Vivaldi..................................FOUR SEASONS
Conductor: PHILIP LEDGER
JACK BRYMER clarinet JOSE-LUIS GARCIA violin
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

TOMORROW at 7.30 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

RG Rossini ...... WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE
Sibelius...................................FINLANDIA
Tchaikovsky.....PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1
Dvorak SYMPHONY NO. 9 (NEW WORLD)
Conductor: CESARE CIVETTA LESLIE HOWARD piano
£5.50, £7, £9, £10.50, £11.50, £12.50

TUESDAY NEXT 29 DECEMBER at 3 p.m.

THE SNOWMAN

RG Howard Blake's award winning "The Snowman" featuring the hit single Walking in the Air, plus his Nursery Rhymes Overture, and The Remarkable Rocket based on the fairy story by Oscar Wilde.
SINFONIA OF LONDON
Conductor: HOWARD BLAKE JOHNNY MORRIS narrator
JAMES RAINBIRD boy soprano
Tickets: £8.50, £7.50, £6; Children (Under 16) £5.50, £4.50, £3.50

TUESDAY NEXT 29 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.

CHRISTMAS LOVE CLASSICS

RG Tchaikovsky ....ROMEO AND JULIET
J. Strauss II.........ROSES FROM THE SOUTH
Rachmaninov.........PIANO CONCERTO No. 2
Tchaikovsky ....SLEEPING BEAUTY WALTZ
Bizet..CARMEN SUITE
Ravel...BOLERO
And a Christmas Rose for every lady member of the audience.
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
Conductor: NICHOLAS CLEOBURY PIERS LANE piano
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

WEDNESDAY NEXT 30 DECEMBER at 3 p.m.

FAMILY CLASSICS

RG ROSSINI: Barber of Seville Overture; SOUSA: Liberty Bell March, TCHAIKOVSKY: Swan Lake Waltz; GRIEG: Piano Concerto; SUPPE: Light Cavalry Overture; STRAUSS: Blue Danube Waltz; MASCAGNI: Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana; ELGAR: Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1; TCHAIKOVSKY: 1812 Overture with Cannon & Mortar Effects.
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA JOANNA MACGREGOR piano
Introduced and Conducted by BRAMWELL TOVEY
£6.50, £7.50, £8.50, £9.50, £10.50. Children (under 16) Half Price

WEDNESDAY NEXT 30 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.

OPERA GALA NIGHT

DENNIS O'NEILL
Eirean Davies London Chorale London Concert Orchestra
Fanfare Trumpeters from Welsh Guards
Andrew Greenwood conductor.
RG Verdi: Nabucco Hebrew Slaves Chorus; Rigoletto Excerpts; Macbeth Macduff's Aria; La Traviata Prelude and Brindisi; Aida Grand March; Puccini: Turandot Nessun Dorma; La Boheme Excerpts; Rossini: Barber of Seville Overture; Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana Intermezzo; Arias from La Gioconda, Gianni Schicchi etc.
£7.50, £9, £10.50, £12.50, £14.50, £16.50

MONDAY 4 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.

WILD WEST POPS

RG Music from the Wild West inc. Lone Ranger Theme (William Tell); Hoedown from Rodeo, For A Fistful of Dollars, The Alamo, Gone With The Wind, High Noon, The Big Country, The Magnificent Seven; and excerpts from Oklahoma, Calamity Jane, Seven Brides For Seven Brothers, Annie Get Your Gun and Paint Your Wagon.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC POPS ORCHESTRA
Conductor: MICHAEL REED Introduced by BUFFALO BILL
MARY CAREWE, LINDSAY BENSON singers
Showgirls from El Salon Mexico
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

TUESDAY 5 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

RG Mozart: Symphony No. 39
Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 (Choral)
Conductor: JANE GLOVER LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY
YVONNE KENNY soprano PENELOPE WALKER mezzo soprano
KENNETH WOOLLAM tenor DAVID WILSON-JOHNSON bass
£6, £8, £10, £12, £14

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.

POPULAR CLASSICS

RG Dukas .... THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
Grieg............................... PEER GYNT SUITE NO. 1
Gershwin..................................RHAPSODY IN BLUE
Rossini.............. THE THIEVING MAGPIE OVERTURE
J. Strauss............................ THE EMPEROR WALTZ
Elgar ..... POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE MARCH NO. 4
Ravel..BOLERO
Conductor: NICHOLAS CLEOBURY PHILIP FOWKE piano
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY at 8 p.m.

TCHAIKOVSKY NIGHT

RG *Marche Slave; Suite from Swan Lake; Piano Concerto No. 1; Suite from The Nutcracker; 1812 Overture, with Cannon & Mortar Effects*
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
Conductor: FRASER GOULDING
WILLIAM STEPHENSON piano
BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

SATURDAY 30 JANUARY at 8 p.m.

THE BEST OF BROADWAY

RG Excerpts from great Broadway shows inc. *My Fair Lady*, West Side Story, Annie get your Gun, Kiss me Kate, The Desert Song, and The King and I
BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA
Conductor: HARRY RABINOWITZ
LORNA DALLAS, MARTIN SMITH singers
JOHN McCARTHY SINGERS
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50
In association with BBC Radio 2

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Box Office 01-928 3191 C.C. 01-928 8800

TOMORROW at 3 & 7.30 p.m.

JOHANN STRAUSS GALA

RG JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA
directed from the violin by *JOHN BRADBURY*
ANN JAMES soprano
GERALDINE STEPHENSON choreographer
JOHANN STRAUSS DANCERS in Costume.
Music of the Strauss family inc. Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, Annen Polka, Morning Papers, *Egyptian March, Roses from the South, Sperl Galop, Wiener Blut, Die Libelle, Blue Danube, Radetzky March, Auf der Jagd, Aquarellen Waltz, Champagne Polka, Die Fledermaus Laughing Song, Emperor Waltz, Cuckoo Polka, Bahn Frei!, Chinese Galop,* Thunder and Lightning Polka and many more.
Matinee: £3.50, £5, £7, £9, £10.50
Evening: £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL

NEW YEAR GALA CONCERTS

in association with ROYAL ALBERT HALL

VH **TOMORROW at 7.30**
TCHAIKOVSKY
Introduced & conducted by: ANTONY HOPKINS
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Soloist: ANDREW HAIGH
'Sleeping Beauty' Waltz, 'Swan Lake' Suite,
Piano Concerto No.1, 'Nutcracker' Suite
OVERTURE '1812' WITH CANNON AND MORTAR EFFECTS

VH **FRIDAY NEXT at 7.30**
VIENNESE - NEW YEAR GALA OF MUSIC AND DANCE
Conductor: ORMSBY WILKINS
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
STARS FROM SADLERS WELLS ROYAL BALLET
JOHANN STRAUSS: Ov. Die Fledermaus, Cuckoo Polka, Perpetuum Mobile, Scene from Graduation Ball, Emperor Waltz, Bahn Frei Polka, Radetzky March, Anvil Polka, Voices of Spring, Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, Egyptian March, Wine Women & Song, Champagne Polka, Pizzicato Polka, Blue Danube Waltz; LEHAR: Gold & Silver Waltz; WALDTEUFEL: Skaters Waltz; LANNER: New Year Galop.

VH **SATURDAY NEXT at 7.30**
GRAND OPERA NIGHT
WREN ORCHESTRA FANFARE TRUMPETERS
JOHN BATE CHOIR and WHITEHALL CHOIR
Conductor: GRAHAM NASH Soprano: ELIZABETH VAUGHAN
Tenor: JOHN BRECKNOCK Baritone: SIMON KEENLYSIDE
Ov. William Tell, NABUCCO Hebrew Slaves Chorus, Pearl Fishers Duet, Meditation from Thais, AIDA Grand Chorus, Final Trio & Chorus from FAUST, Intermezzo Cavalleria Rusticana, Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor ARIAS & CHORUSES from Don Giovanni, Gianni Schicchi, La Traviata, Barber of Seville, Il Trovatore, Madam Butterfly, L'Elisir D'Amore, Cavalleria Rusticana, Magic Flute
Tickets: £4.50 £6.50 £8.50 £10.50 £12.50
Royal Albert Hall 589 8212 Credit Cards 589 9465
Open All Hours Credit Card Hotline 379 4444

VH at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

in assoc. with Capital Radio
SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY at 7.30
CLASSICAL FAVOURITES
WREN ORCHESTRA
Conductor: BRAMWELL TOVEY Piano: CRAIG SHEPPARD
Overture, Fingal's Cave MENDELSSOHN,
Greensleeves VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, Piano Concerto GRIEG,
Symphony No.9 (New World) DVORAK
£4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £8.50 £10 £11.50 £12.50 Hall 928 3191/928 8800

VH **SUNDAY 17th JANUARY at 7.30**
POPULAR CLASSICS
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Conductor: ROBERT TEAR Violin: ERICH GRUENBERG
Overture, Magic Flute .... MOZART
Water Music Suite .... HANDEL
Violin Concerto .... BRUCH
Symphony No.6 (PASTORAL) .... BEETHOVEN
£4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £8.50 £10 £11.50 £12.50 from Hall 928 3191/928 8800

in assoc. with Capital Radio
VH **WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY at 7.30**
HITS FROM THE SHOWS
WREN ORCHESTRA & BIG BAND Cond: IAIN SUTHERLAND
Soloist: ELAINE DELMAR & VINCE HILL
Programme includes excerpts from: MY FAIR LADY, A CHORUS LINE, WEST SIDE STORY, ME & MY GIRL, PORGY & BESS, CHESS and many more
£4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £8.50 £10 £11.50 £12.50 from Hall 928 3191/928 8800

at the BARBICAN

in assoc. with Capital Radio
VH **FRIDAY 15th JANUARY at 7.45**
AN EVENING IN SPAIN
WREN ORCHESTRA
Conductor: DAVID COLEMAN Harp: MARISA ROBLES
Overture, Barber of Seville ROSSINI, Three Dances from The Three-Cornered Hat FALLA, Espana CHABRIER, Ritual Fire Dance FALLA, Capriccio Espagnol RIMSKY-KORSAKOV El Amor Brujo FALLA, Concierto d'Aranjuez RODRIGO
PLUS POPULAR SOLOS played by MARISA ROBLES
£5.50 £6.50 £8.50 £10 £11.50 £12.50 from Hall 638 8891/628 8795

COTTESLOE National Theatre 928 2252 Today 2.30 & 7.30. Mon 7.30 ENTERTAINING STRANGERS new play by David Edgar (Promenade perfs)

CRITERION S 930 3216 CC 379 6565/ 379 4444/741 9999. Groups 836 3962. Eves 8. Thur mat 2.30. Sat 5.30 & 8.30 "BRITISH FARCE AT ITS BEST" D Mail The Theatre of Comedy Company RALPH BATES BRIAN MURPHY LIONEL JEFFRIES RUN FOR YOUR WIFE! LONDON'S LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY Written and directed by RAY COONEY Over 2000 side-splitting perfs "SHOULD RUN FOR LIFE" S. Ex

DOMINION THEATRE 580 8845 580 9562. Tel CC bkgs FIRST CALL 24hr 7 day 836 2428 NO BKG FEE CC 379 4444 or 741 9999 (no bkg fee) Grps 930 6123 DAVE CLARK'S TIME THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE THE PORTRAYAL OF 'AKASH' BY LAURENCE OLIVIER Mon-Fri 7.30 Sat 4 & 8.15 SPECIAL CONCESSIONS at £7 all perfs except Fri & Sat eves for OAP's, UB40's, students & under 16's avail from 3pm (Sat from 12 noon) NOW BOOKING TO APRIL 88 NO PERF TODAY

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 240 8230 cc 379 6565/4444 Final weeks. Mon-Thu 8pm Fri, Sat at 6 & 8.45 pm "Excellent" FT BREL

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL Box Office & CC 01-836 8108. 01-240 9066/7. First Call 24hr 7 day cc bkgs on 01 240 7200 (no bkg fee). Open All Hours 01 379 4444 (no bkg fee) David Merrick's. 42ND STREET A SHOW FOR ALL THE FAMILY Winner of all the best Musical Awards for 1984 voted BEST MUSICAL STANDARD DRAMA AWARDS voted BEST MUSICAL LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARD voted BEST MUSICAL PLAYS & PLAYERS LONDON THEATRE CRITICS AWARD Evgs 8.0 Mats Wed 3.0, Sat 5.0 & 8.30. Reduced price mat Weds. Students and OAP's standby. Group Sales 930 6123 4TH GREAT YEAR

DUKE OF YORKS 836 5122 cc 836 9837/379 4444/240 7200/741 9999 Grps 930 6123 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S AND THEN THERE WERE NONE "QUITE IRRESISTIBLE" D Mir "A STUNNINGLY ORIGINAL PLOT" D Tel. "A TRUE COMEDY THRILLER" LBC Eves 8 Mats Thu 3 Sat 5 EXTRA PERF DEC 28 AT 3PM

FORTUNE THEATRE 836 2238 cc 741 9999 Evgs Mon-Fri 8pm Sat 8.30 Mat Thurs at 3pm/Sat 5pm NUNSENSE THE FUNNY NUNNY MUSICAL 'A Great Big Embrace of Fun' BBC 'Wacky & Totally Entertaining' ILR 'Phenomenal Success' DNews Bkg Fee 1st Call 240 7200 Open All Hours 379 4444 Grp Sales 930 6123 Xmas perfs 24 Dec Mat 3pm only 25 Dec No perfs 26 Dec 5pm & 8.30pm Over 200 Perfs MUST END JAN 16 PRIOR TO WORLD TOUR

GARRICK 379 6107 cc 379 4444 (24hr no bkg fee). 741 9999 (no bkg fee) 240 7200 (bkg fee) WILLIAM GAUNT ROWENA ROBERTS IAN TALBOT WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR...TROUSERS? by Ray Galton & John Antrobus Eves 8. Mats Tues 3. Sat 5 OVER 300 PERFS! THE NEW HIT COMEDY. NOW BOOKING TO MAY '88

GLOBE THEATRE 01 437 3667/741 9999. First Call 240 7200 (bkg fee). MAGGIE SMITH Nominated best actress: Olivier Awards MARGARET TYZACK in LETTICE AND LOVAGE nominated best play: Olivier Awards a new comedy by PETER SHAFFER with RICHARD PEARSON directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE Mon-Sat 7.45 sharp. Sat Mat 3.00

GREENWICH THEATRE 01-858 7755, cc 01 853 3800 (no bkg fee) Evenings at 7.45. Mat Sat 2.30 BELLS ARE RINGING The Comden & Green/Styne Musical. "A tonic...LESLEY MACKIE radiates gaiety...well partnered by RAY LONNEN" Gdn. "Most welcome" F.Times.

HAMPSTEAD 722 9301 BETWEEN EAST AND WEST by Richard Nelson. Eves 8 pm. Sat 4.30 & 8pm. Tonight 8pm only. Extra mat 3pm 30 Dec. "One of the year's best new plays...superlatively directed" Gdn

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL Box Office & cc 01-930 9832 MICHAEL HORDERN IRENE WORTH "A comic gem" Gdn. "A glorious performance" D.Tel and MICHAEL DENISON "Gruffly amusing" D.Express in YOU NEVER CAN TELL by Bernard Shaw Toby Robertson's "splendidly choreographed production" D.Tel Evgs 7.30 Mats Weds & Sats 3.00 First Call 24hr 7-day cc bkgs 01-240 7200 (bkg fee) Open All Hours 01-379 4444 (bkg fee) Group Sales 01-930 6123

HER MAJESTY'S Haymarket 839 2244 CC 24hr (bkg fee) 379 4444/240 7200 Grp Sales 930 6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA DAVE WILLETTS CLAIRE MOORE MICHAEL BALL Rebecca Caine plays Christine at certain performances Directed by HAROLD PRINCE Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 Only Balcony Seats £7.50 remain for Wed Mats July-Sept 88

LONDON PALLADIUM 01-437 7373 Daily 2.30 & 7.30 TOMMY & BOBBY CANNON BALL with MARTI WEBB Derek Griffiths Barbara Windsor Cheryl Baker Peter Howitt with John Inman in the Lavish New Production of BABES IN THE WOOD with Special Guest Star ROD HULL & EMU Major CC accepted. First Call 24 hr 7 day cc bkgs. 01-240 7200 Open All Hours 01-379 4444 CCTB 01-741 9999 (No bkg fee) Group Sales 01-930 6123 Special Party Concessions apply Box Office.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 01 741 2311. Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 LYTLE. 10.30 & 2.00 (no mats Wed & Sat) BUTTON MOON. LYRIC STUDIO THE FROGGITS Eves 8pm (2 shows) - call Box Office for details.

LYRIC W1 437 3686/734 5166 "A Glowing Glory" Sun Exp. RUSS ABBOT ONE FOR THE ROAD By Willy Russell Mon-Fri 7.30 Sat 5.0 & 8.0 Mats Wed 3.0 1st Call 24 hr 7 day cc 240 7200. Open All Hours 379 4444 (Bkg fee) CCTB 741 9999 (Not Bkg Fee) Grps 930 6123. From Jan 11 Evgs 7.30 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30

LYTTELTON National Theatre 928 2252. Today 2.15 & 7.45. Mon 7.45 WAITING FOR GODOT by Samuel Beckett.

MAYFAIR CC 629 3036 379 4444 Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5.40 & 8.10 RICHARD TODD in "The Best Thriller for years" S. Mir THE BUSINESS OF MURDER "An unabashed winner" S Exp "Sensational" Times 7TH THRILLING YEAR!

MAYFAIR THEATRE SOOTY'S XMAS SHOW SORRY ALL SEATS SOLD SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

MERMAID THEATRE 01-236 5568/ 638 8891/ 741 9999/ First Call 240 7200 (Groups 930 6123) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY TODAY 2.0 & 7.30 THE ROVER by Aphra Behn "JOYOUS ENTERTAINMENT" D.Mail. Perfs (Mon-Sat) until 16 Jan. Some tix still avail for mats 26, 31 Dec, 2, 7 Jan.

NATIONAL THEATRE CC 01-928 2252 CC Agencies, bkg fee: 379 4444/240 7200/741 9999 See OLIVIER/LYTTELTON/COTTESLOE Cheap seats days of perfs from 10am.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 405 0072 CC OPEN ALL HOURS 379 4444. Tkts from W H Smith Travel Branches. Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT MUSICAL CATS Group Bookings 01 930 6123 or 01 405 1567. NOW BOOKING TO JUNE 88.

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc 261 1821 Eves 7.30. Wed Mats 2.30. Sats 4.0 & 7.45. EXTRA XMAS MAT DEC 29 AT 2.30 Nominated for 4 Laurence Olivier Awards 1987 "THE BEST MUSICAL IN LONDON" NY Post Royal Shakespeare Company in KISS ME KATE with JAMES SMILLIE NICHOLA McAULIFFE TIM FLAVIN "COLE PORTER'S GLORIOUS MUSICAL" D.Tele. CC Nos (bkg fee) Open All Hours 379 4444/1st Call 240 7200/KP 741 9999. Grp Sales 930 6123 Transfers to Savoy Theatre 15 Jan 1988

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc 1821 From 15 January ANDROMACHE by Racine directed by JONATHAN MILLER LIMITED SEASON - BOOK NOW

OLIVIER National Theatre 928 2252. Today 2.00 & 7.15. Mon 7.15 A SMALL FAMILY BUSINESS new play by Alan Ayckbourn.

PALACE THEATRE 434 0909 CC OPEN ALL HOURS 379 4444 First Call 24Hr 7 Day cc 240 7200 Grp Sales 930 6123 "THE SHOW OF ALL SHOWS" Newsweek Winner of 8 Tony Awards inc BEST MUSICAL LES MISERABLES THE MUSICAL SENSATION Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval "FIGHT TO GET A TICKET" LBC NOW BOOKING TO SEPT 24 '88

PHOENIX THEATRE 240 9661 836 2294 cc 741 9999 379 4444 240 7200 (bkg fee) ALBERT FINNEY "A blazing performance" S.Times BOB PECK in J J FARR "A searing, serious, thoughtful play" S.Times by RONALD HARWOOD Eves 8. Mats Thu & Sat 3 8.00 Perf only. Closes Today

PICCADILLY 437 4506 CC 379 6565/4444 Open All Hours/741 9999. "AN UNSTOPPABLE SUCCESS" D. Express BLUES IN THE NIGHT Nominated MUSICAL OF THE YEAR CAROL WOODS Nominated BEST ACTRESS in a Musical Laurence Olivier Award 87 LOW PRICE SHOWS FRI & SAT 6.30. Mon-Thu 8. Fri & Sat 6.30 & 9. Ton't at 5 & 8.

PLAYHOUSE 839 4401. CC 240 7200/379 4444 (24 hrs bkg fee) & CC 741 9999 (bkg fee). Limited Season A Christmas Treat for all Ages IAN McKELLEN ACTING SHAKESPEARE "GREAT ACTING" Times Eves 8pm Fri & Sat 6.30 & 9pm Ton't 5pm only, 31 Dec 5pm only. Tkts £5 - £14.50 ALL PROCEEDS TO LONDON LIGHTHOUSE AIDS HOSPICE

PRINCE EDWARD 734 8951 ALL tel cc bkgs FIRST CALL 24 hour 7 day on 836 3464 Grp Sales 930 6123. Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30 BEST MUSICAL 1986 Drama Magazine CHESS "A GRAND MASTER OF A SHOW" Newsweek Now booking to July 88 APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS

PRINCE OF WALES 839 5989 GEMMA CRAVEN EMILE BELCOURT RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S SOUTH PACIFIC Previews from January 9. Credit Cards 240 7200 (24hrs) Group Sales 930 6123

QUEENS 734 1166/0261/0120 cc 741 9999 24hr 7day cc 240 7200 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123. FRANK FINLAY WENDY CRAIG BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT "BRILLIANT" PA "A TRIUMPH" D Exp "A SMASH HIT" The People by JEFFREY ARCHER DAVID LANGTON JEFFRY WICKHAM ANDREW CRUICKSHANK Directed by DAVID GILMORE Mon-Fri 8 Mat Thu 3 Sat 5 & 8.30 NOW BOOKING TO SEPT 88

ROYALTY 01 831 0660 CC 01 240 7200 (bkg fee) Until Jan 30. No perfs today or Fri Mon - Thurs 2.30pm, 6.30pm WINNIE THE POOH by AA Milne. Not suitable for children under 4 years old

SADLERS WELLS 278 8916 Please see Opera/Ballet Section.

SAVOY THEATRE 836 8888. CC & Groups 379 6219, 836 0479/741 9999. First Call 240 7200 (bkg fee). Group Sales 930 6123 CHARLTON HESTON "Undeniable Magnificence" Ind GWEN WATFORD BENJAMIN WHITROW and ROY KINNEAR In the Chichester Festival Theatre production of A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS "This fine play" D.Mail BY ROBERT BOLT "Genuinely moving" Guardian DIRECTED BY FRANK HAUSER Eves 7.30. Mats Wed & Sats 2.30

ST MARTIN'S 01-836 1443. Special CC No. 379 4444. Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45, Sat 5.0 and 8.0 36TH YEAR OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP Extra perf Dec 28 at 8pm

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE 379 5399 24hr cc 379 4444/240 7200/741 9999 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 WINNER BEST MUSICAL 1987 Standard Drama Awards & Drama Magazine Awards DIANA RIGG JULIA McKENZIE DANIEL MASSEY DAVID HEALY & DOLORES GRAY FOLLIES The Sondheim/Goldman Musical "A TRULY FANTASTIC EVENING" F.T. Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3. APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS Box office opened [illegible] Discounts available for groups for Wed Mats.

STRAND 836 2660 cc 836 4143/5190 1st Call 24hr 240 7200 (bkg fee). Grps 930 6123 BARRY HUMPHRIES "THE GREATEST COMIC ENTERTAINER OF OUR TIME" Ind in BACK WITH A VENGEANCE! "BY FAR THE FUNNIEST NEW SHOW OF THE YEAR... PHENOMENAL, EXPLOSIVE AND ENTERTAINING" Obs Mon-Fri 7.30 Sat 2.30 & [illegible] Season extended to April 9

STRATFORD UPON AVON (0789) 295623. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY at RST. The Taming of the Shrew Mat Today 2.30. Wed 7.30. Twelfth Night Tonight 7.30 Merchant of Venice Mon 7.30 Measure for Measure Tue 7.30. Swan Theatre. The Revenger's Tragedy Mat Today 1.30, Wed 7.30. The Jew of Malta Tonight 7.30. Titus Andronicus Mon 7.30 The New Inn Tue 7.30. Stop Over Meal/ticket package (0789) 414999.

VAUDEVILLE 836 9987 CC 836 5645 240 7200/379 4444 KENNETH GRAHAME'S SUPERB WIND IN THE WILLOWS Daily at 2 & 5

VICTORIA PALACE Box Office & cc 834 1317/828 4735 cc 741 9999 379 4444 First Call cc 240 7200 24hr 7 day Group Sales 930 6123 "A WONDERFUL EVENING OUT... FOR HIGH OR [illegible] SOCIETY" S.Times PATRICK RYECART ANGELA RICHARDS STEVEN PACEY JULIE OSBURN HIGH SOCIETY Directed by Richard Eyre "PURE MAGIC" D.Exp Mon-Fri 7.45 Wed Mat 3 Sat 4.45 & 8.15 LAST 4 WEEKS! TODAY AT 3.0PM ONLY

WESTMINSTER 01-834 0283/4 CC 834 0048/240 7200 (bkg fee) Another magical journey into Narnia - Today, Tues, Wed, Thurs 3pm, 6.30pm Mon, Fri 3pm THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER

WHITEHALL off Trafalgar Sq. 01 930 7765 CC 379 6565/379 4444 /741 9999/240 7200 (bkg fee) Mon - Fri 8 pm, Wed Mat 3.00, Sat 5 & 8.15 HINGE & BRACKET in Oscar Wilde's THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Directed and adapted by Lou Stein "Moments to savour" Fin Times

WYNDHAM'S 836 3028 CC 379 6565/4444 (no bkg fee) and 741 9999/240 7200 (bkg fee) Groups 836 3962 Royal Court production of Caryl Churchill's SERIOUS MONEY Directed by Max Stafford-Clark Winner BEST COMEDY Standard Drama Award 87 Nominated PLAY OF THE YEAR Laurence Olivier Awards 87 "PURE GENIUS" D. Tel Mon to Thu 8.0 Fri 3.0 & 8.15, Sat 4.0 & 8.15

ART GALLERIES

BARBICAN ART GALLERY Level 8 Barbican Centre London EC2 01-638 4141 ext 306 THE EDWARDIAN ERA Until 7 Feb Mon - Sat 10am - 6.45pm. Sundays & Dec 26, 28, Jan 1, 12 - 5.45pm. Adm £3 conc £1.50.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, St Martin's Place, London, WC2. Tel 01-930 1552. FX WINTERHALTER AND THE COURTS OF EUROPE 1830-1870 Until 10 Jan. Adm. £2. Family Ticket £5. Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-6 Sun 2-6. Closed 24-26 Dec and 1 Jan.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, Piccadilly W1. 01-734 9052. Open daily 10-6 inc. Sun. (reduced rate Sun until 1.45). AGE OF CHIVALRY: ART IN PLANTAGENET ENGLAND 1200 - 1400 Open New Year's Day. SPECIAL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FAMILY OFFER until 10 Jan: 1 ADULT - 1 CHILD FREE.

CINEMAS

BARBICAN 1. CC 01-638 8891. Dolby Stereo. All seats bookable. Credit Cards Accepted. AMADEUS (PG) 6.15. Kids Club. WIZARD OF OZ (U) 2.30

CAMDEN PLAZA opp. Camden Town Tube 485 2443 THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK (18) 1.30, 3.50, 6.15, 8.40

CHELSEA CINEMA Kings Road SW3. 351 3742 HOUSEKEEPING (PG) 1.35 3.55 6.20 8.45.

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St 499 3737. Yves Montand in MANON DES SOURCES (PG) Film at 1.15 (not Sun) 3.30 6.00 8.30. "It has the mark of a classic" Times.

CURZON PHOENIX Charing Cross Rd 240 9661 Yves Montand & Gerard Depardieu in JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG) Film at 1.15 (not Sun) 3.30 6.00 8.30

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Avenue W1 439 4805. ALEC GUINNESS & DEREK JACOBI in LITTLE DORRIT (U). Part 1: Mon, Wed, Fri 7.30 Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat 2.30 Sun 3.30 Part 2: Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun 7.30 Mon & Wed 2.30 Limited Season only.

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE 930 5252 (Enq)/930 7615 (24 hr Access/ Visa/ AmEx Bookings) SANTA CLAUS - THE MOVIE (U) Sep progs Daily 1.10 3.35. BEST SELLER (18) Sep progs Daily 6.10 8.50. All progs bookable in advance. CINEMA CLOSED TODAY.

LUMIERE CINEMA St Martins Lane WC2 379 3014 / 836 0691. THE DEAD (U) 1.40 3.30 5.20 7.15 9.15.

MINEMA 45 KNIGHTSBRIDGE 235 4225 CROCODILE DUNDEE (15) Daily: 3.00 5.0 7.0 9.0. Cinema closed: Dec. 24,25,26,27,28.

ODEON HAYMARKET (839 7697) WISH YOU WERE HERE (15) Sep progs Daily 11.40 1.55 4.15 6.35 9.05. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.30pm. All seats bookable in advance. Access and Visa telephone bookings welcome. CINEMA CLOSED TODAY.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) Info 930 4250 / 4259. SPACEBALLS (PG) Sep progs Doors open Daily 1.00 3.20 5.45 8.15. All progs bookable in advance. Credit Card Hot Line (Access/Visa/Amex) 930 3232 or 839 1929. 24 hour service. CINEMA CLOSED TODAY.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (723 2011) Walt Disney's Classic SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS (U) Sep progs Doors open Daily 1.45, 4.00, 6.15, 8.30. Evening performance bookable in advance. Reduced prices for Under 16's. CINEMA CLOSED TODAY.

RENOIR Brunswick Sq. WC1 (Russell Sq. Tube) 837 8402
1. Bill Forsyth's HOUSEKEEPING (PG) Film at 1.35 3.55 6.20 8.45.
2. ARIA (18) Film at 1.15 3.10 5.05 7.05 9.05.

EXHIBITIONS

EMPERORS TERRACOTTA WARRIORS. Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, Vincent Square. SW1. £4.50. Adults. £3 child. 09.30 - 21.00 except tuesday 09.30 - 18.00. W/E 10.00 - 21.00. December 14th - Feb 20th. Tel: 01-828 2768.

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Legal La Crème for top legal secretaries.

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THURSDAY
General Appointments: Banking and Accountancy, Engineering, Management, etc. with editorial.
La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments.

FRIDAY
Motors: A complete car buyer's guide with editorial.
Business to Business: Business opportunities, commercial property, with editorial.

SATURDAY
Overseas and UK Holidays: Villas/Cottages, Hotels, Flights, etc. **Restaurant Guide:** Where to eat in London and nationwide with editorial fortnightly. **Times Guide to Legal & Financial Services:** conveyancing to divorce, shares to management, with editorial. **Shoparound:** Window shopping from the comfort of your own home.

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هكذا من الاصل

December 26, 1987 – January 1, 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

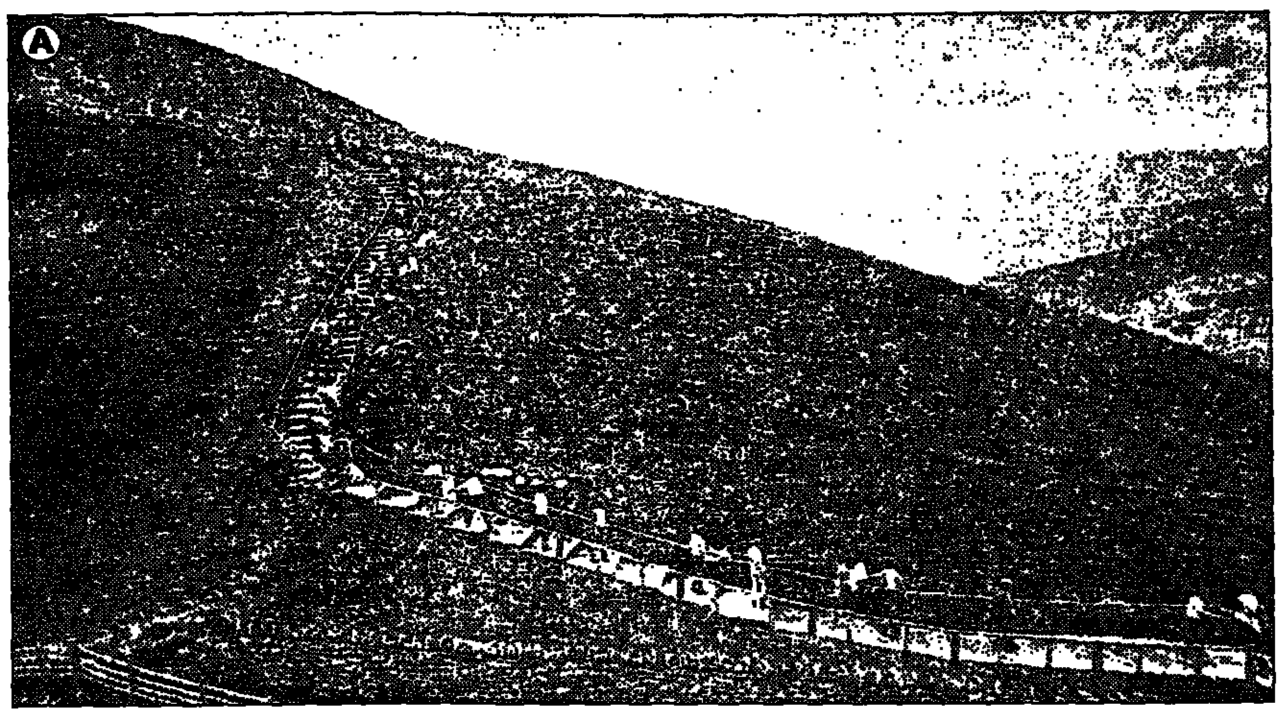
Quiz of the year 1987

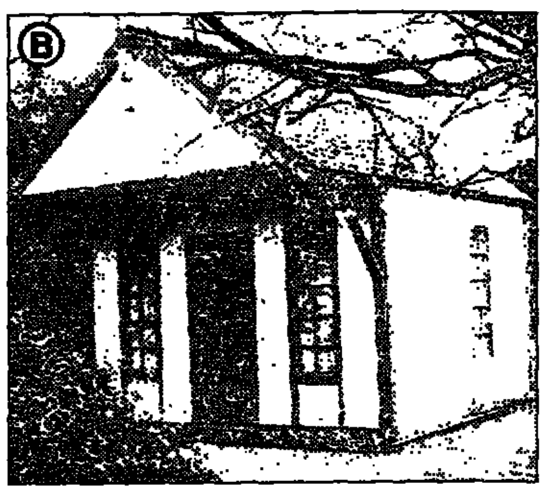
Six cases of champagne await the winners of our annual quiz, compiled by **Robin Young**

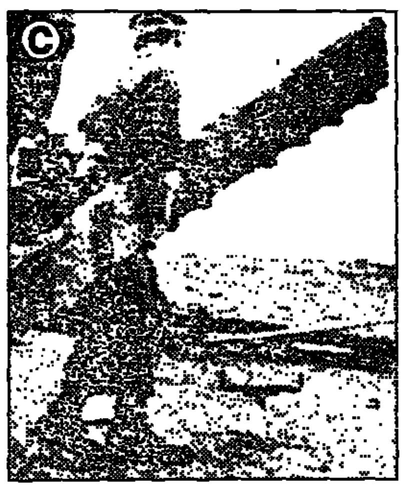
● This was the year when a South African woman bore her own grandchildren, and when President Reagan said that the best way to pick Supreme Court judges might be to throw darts at names on a wall. For the first time in history nations agreed to do away with a particular weapon, but Britons successfully revived the ancient Greek trireme.

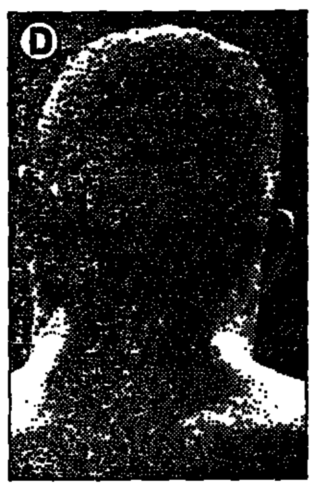
● It was the year when a boxer biffed the referee and cricketers accused the umpires of cheating. When stock markets rose, and fell, more rapidly than ever before and one of the few who sold out in time, Sir James Goldsmith, confessed that he had done so only because he was confused.

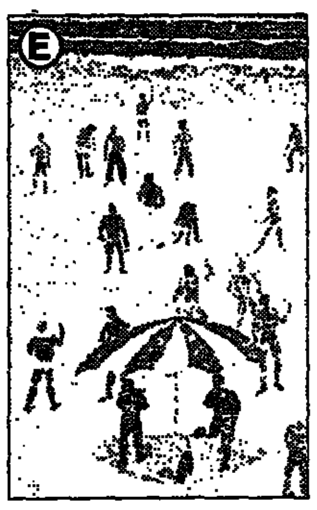
● At the year's end you too may be a little unsure of who did what and what is where – but if you can muster your senses and answer all the questions in our Christmas Quiz correctly, you could start the New Year with a rewarding draught of Moët et Chandon champagne.

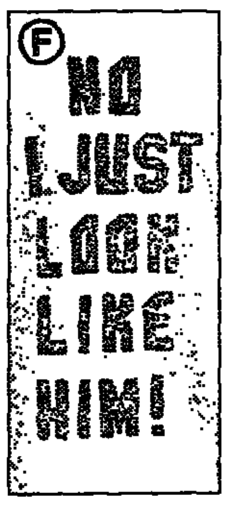


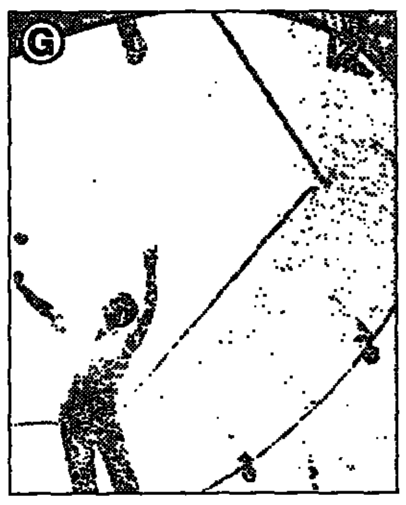


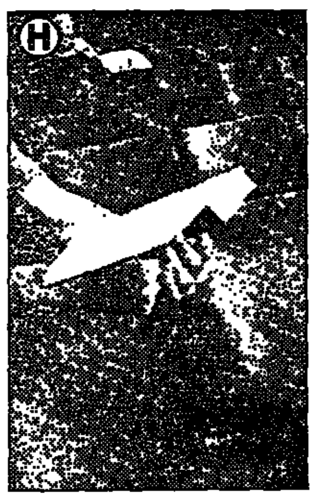












PICTURE QUESTIONS

A Are these people:
(1) taking part in a CND *"Hands Across Britain"* demonstration
(2) helping with drought relief in Africa
(3) attempting a reconstruction of the Great Wall of China
(4) repairing a *hill fort in* Derbyhire?

B Is this listed building:
(1) a public lavatory in Minehead
(2) a park attendants' hut in Worthing
(3) a Butlin's holiday camp chalet in Skegness
(4) *a London cabbie*'s shelter?

C Was this picture taken at:
(1) Barlinnie
(2) Perth
(3) Peterhead
(4) Spandau?

D Is this:
(1) Frank Bruno
(2) Lloyd Honeyghan
(3) Mike Tyson
(4) *Marvin Hagler?*

E *Is this newly* revealed painting by:
(1) *Noel Coward*
(2) L.S. Lowry
(3) Prince Charles
(4) Sir Winston Churchill?

F Looks like who:
(1) Prince Edward
(2) Steve Davis
(3) Roger Jacklin
(4) Placido Domingo?

G *Is this a component* for:
(1) *the world's biggest drum*
(2) a ventilator for the Channel tunnel
(3) a filter to prevent British power stations contributing to acid rain
(4) Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Flyer?

H Is this:
(1) a religious crusade at the London Palladium
(2) the audience at Covent Garden on the night of the free open air relay of *La Boheme*
(3) the audience for *Cabaret* on one of the two nights the musical went on without music
(4) a debate at the SDP conference?

ROYAL ANTICS

During 1987 which member of the Royal Family:

1 Received a private pilot's licence and looped the loop over Lincoln Cathedral?
(a) The Princess of Wales
(b) The Duchess of York
(c) The Duchess of Kent
(d) The Duke of York

2 Climbed nine-tenths of the way up Salisbury Cathedral spire?
(a) Angus Ogilvy
(b) The Duke of Edinburgh
(c) Prince Michael of Kent
(d) The Prince of Wales

3 Confessed "I am as thick as a plank"?
(a) The Queen
(b) The Princess Royal
(c) The Princess of Wales
(d) Lady Helen Windsor

4 Appeared as the Sandringham Slammer?
(a) Prince William
(b) Prince Henry
(c) Prince Edward
(d) Prince Philip

5 Appeared in triplicate at the Royal Academy?
(a) The Prince of Wales
(b) The Princess of Wales
(c) Viscount Linley
(d) Princess Michael of Kent

6 *Exhibited at the Royal* Academy under the name of Carrick?
(a) Prince Charles
(b) The Queen Mother
(c) Princess Alexandra
(d) Viscount Linley?

7 *Was banned from driving?*
(a) *Captain Mark Phillips*
(b) Viscount Linley
(c) *The Duke of Kent*
(d) Princess Margaret

8 Flattened a car with a Chieftain tank?
(a) Captain Mark Phillips
(b) Viscount Linley
(c) The Princess Royal
(d) The Duke of Kent

9 Sliced a human eyeball?
(a) The Duke of York
(b) Princess Alexandra
(c) Princess Michael Of Kent
(d) Prince Richard of Gloucester

10 Failed as a cheese maker?
(a) Captain Mark Phillips
(b) The Queen
(c) The Princess Royal
(d) The Prince of Wales

PREMIER ROLES

Which Prime Minister (past or present)

11 Raised £500,000 for *Chinese charity?*
(a) Zhao Ziyang
(b) *Jacques Chirac*
(c) Edward Heath
(d) Yasuhiro Nakasone

12 Was clubbed by a guard of honour?
(a) Itzhak Rabin
(b) Giovanni Goria
(c) Rajiv Gandhi
(d) James Callaghan

13 Featured in the MCC's bicentenary auction of *cricketing* memorabilia?
(a) *Lord Home of the Hirsel*
(b) Bob Hawke
(c) Malcolm Fraser
(d) Lord Stockton

14 Said the security services in his time were "living in a dream world"?
(a) James Callaghan
(b) Lord Home
(c) *Edward Heath*
(d) Lord Wilson

15 Said: "I think I have become a bit of an institution – you know, the sort of thing people expect to see around the place"?
(a) Margaret Thatcher
(b) Edward Heath
(c) Sir James Callaghan
(d) *Lord Wilson*

WHO SAYS?

During 1987 who was quoted as saying:

16 "I am a Pole"?
(a) Senator Edward Kennedy
(b) Zbigniew Brzezinski
(c) General Jaruzelski
(d) *The Pope*

17 "The Russians are praying for a Labour victory"?
(a) Mrs Thatcher
(b) Michael Heseltine
(c) Eduard Shevardnadze
(d) Denis Healey

18 "I wish I had stayed in bed"?
(a) Gary Hart
(b) Michael Ryan
(c) Dessie O'Hare
(d) Nigel Lawson

19 "I'm not particularly interested in being Prime Minister. It's a lousy job"?
(a) Norman Tebbit
(b) Cecil Parkinson
(c) Leon Brittan
(d) Michael Heseltine

20 "I was *seeking the* source of peace"?
(a) *Mathias Rust*
(b) Mikhail Gorbachov
(c) *Ronald Reagan*
(d) Bruce Kent

21 "Bonking is not in *my dictionary*"?
(a) Sir Ralph Halpern
(b) Jeffrey Archer
(c) Boris Becker
(d) The Rev Jim Bakker

22 "Inside the Chamber I shall be respectful like a nun. My showbusiness activities will be undertaken at weekends"?
(a) Edwina Currie
(b) Anna McCurley
(c) Lady Olga Maitland
(d) Ilona Staller (Cicciolina)

23 "The SS were as *much victims* as the Jews were"?
(a) Klaus Barbie
(b) Maitre Verges
(c) Jean-Marie Le Pen
(d) Sir Alfred Sherman

24 "Brent South today - Soweto tomorow"?
(a) Diane Abbott
(b) Bernie Grant
(c) Paul Boateng
(d) Sharon Atkin

25 "I was on a basic £100,000 a year. You don't make many savings on that"?
(a) Ernest Saunders
(b) Lester Piggott
(c) Lord Gowrie
(d) Sir Peter Hall

26 "We are now *enjoying the benefits of* a virtuous circle"?
(a) *Cynthia Payne*
(b) The Bishop of London
(c) *Nigel Lawson*
(d) Lord King of Wartnaby

27 "I co-starred with Erroll Flynn once"?
(a) Zsa-Zsa Gabor
(b) Clint Eastwood
(c) Ronald Reagan
(d) Joan Collins

28 "Defeat does not appear on my agenda"?
(a) Neil Kinnock
(b) Arthur Scargill
(c) David Owen
(d) David Steel

29 "I am not prepared *to accept* the economics of a housewife"?
(a) President Reagan, referring to Mrs Thatcher
(b) President Reagan, referring to Nancy
(c) Jacques Chirac, referring to Mrs Thatcher
(d) Neil Kinnock, referring to Glenys

PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES

30 Which past or present President *claimed to be the poorest* President in the world and *said his possessions* included three guitars, an old *car and a broken freezer?*
(a) President Ershad of Bangladesh
(b) "Baby Doc" Duvalier
(c) President Sankara of Burkina Faso
(d) ex-President Marcos

31 Which President denied hiding under the bed during an attempted military coup?
(a) President Aquino of the Philippines
(b) President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka
(c) President Barco Vargas *of Colombia*
(d) President Febres *Cordero of* Ecuador

32 Which President was deposed on grounds of senility and mental incapacity?
(a) President Bourguiba of Tunisia
(b) President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea
(c) President Sankara of Burkina Faso
(d) President Mojsov of *Yugoslavia*

33 *Which past or* present President was accused of having eaten human body stuffed with rice and flamed with gin?
(a) Idi Amin of Uganda
(b) Bokassa of the Central African Republic
(c) Gadaffi of Libya
(d) *Waldheim of Austria*

34 *Which President* announced that his son *had died of Aids?*
(a) President Kaunda of Zambia
(b) President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya
(c) President Assad of Syria
(d) President Ben Ali of Tunisia

MISCELLANY

35 *Who announced that* they were abandoning the penalties of beheading and tearing out the tongue for those violating their code of secrecy?
(a) Tamil Tigers
(b) *the Mafia*
(c) British Freemasons
(d) *Abu Nidal*

36 To whom did President Reagan address the remark: "Nice to see you again, Mr Ambassador"?
(a) Peter Jay
(b) Robert Maxwell
(c) Neil Kinnock
(d) Denis Healey

37 Why was Yasuo Goto, president of Yasuda Fire and Marine Insurance, reprimanded by his country's finance minister?
(a) because he offered blanket coverage for shipping in the Gulf
(b) because he paid £143 million for the *Financial Times* building
(c) *because he bought Van* Gogh's "Sunflowers" for *£24.75 million*
(d) because of the discovery of large numbers of stolen French Impressionist paintings in Japan

38 Who sent The Times a letter in Latin?
(a) The Archbishop of Canterbury, regarding ordination of women
(b) The Pope, on family planning
(c) Roy Jenkins, on *election* as Chancellor of Oxford *University*
(d) Frances Morrell, then head of the Inner London Education Authority

39 Who declared at 733 not out?
(a) Imran Khan
(b) Mike Gatting
(c) Alan Border
(d) Brian Johnston

40 Which won the *Oscar in 1987* as Best Film?
(a) *Platoon*
(b) *Hannah and her Sisters*
(c) *The Mission*
(d) *A Room with a View*

41 Was the painting by Constable saved for the nation by a £3 million appeal:
(a) "The Opening of Tower Bridge"
(b) "The Opening of London Bridge"
(c) "The Opening of Waterloo Bridge"
(d) *"The Opening of* Westminster Bridge?"

42 Who have a unique relationship in the House of Commons, besides David Blunkett and Ted?
(a) Peter and Virginia Bottomley
(b) Ann and Nicholas Winterton
(c) Andrew and David *Mitchell*
(d) Tony and Hilary Benn?

43 Of a meeting with which leader did Mrs Thatcher say: "Every molecule was engaged"?
(a) President Reagan
(b) President Mitterrand
(c) Mikhail Gorbachov
(d) Jacques Chirac

44 Who got married on *St Valentine's Day?*
(a) Daley Thompson
(b) Joan Collins
(c) Mark Thatcher
(d) Princess Lalla Asma of Morocco

45 Was Yerosha:
(a) Raisa Gorbachov's fashion designer
(b) the monkey who played with the controls of a Soviet satellite
(c) a Soviet space station
(d) Mr Gorbachov's pioneering programme of reforms?

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To enter, write down the number of each question followed by the letter beside the answer which you think is correct (e.g. 1,a 2,d; and for the picture questions, A,2 etc).

Send your solutions and name and address to Prize Quiz, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to reach us by first post on Monday Jan 11,1987. Winners and answers will appear in *The Times* on Saturday, January 16

For those who want another general knowledge test, Times Books have just published *The Times Quiz Book* by Howard Robin and Tom Kremer (£3.50).

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NAPLES ● TAORMINA ● LISBON ● ST TROPEZ ● PORTIMAO ● NAPLES ● TAORMINA ● VENICE ● ELBA ● CADIZ ● ST TROPEZ ● VILLEFRANCHE ● MAHON ● VENICE ● LISBON ●

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

TRAVEL NEWS

Of all the venues on the motor-racing Grand Prix circuit, Monaco is the most certain to draw a capacity crowd. For a luxurious view of the posing action – from a yacht moored in the harbour or from La Rascasse, the restaurant that gave its name to a famous corner – consider a package from Maceworth Marine (01-351 4343). The 1988 Monaco Grand Prix will be on Sunday, May 15. Prices from £225 per person for a floating buffet, to £4,750 for a five-day cruise.

● **A good idea, but beware of unpleasant surprises: Virgin Holidays' "Bolshoi Breaks", long weekends in Moscow with tickets for the Bolshoi from £299, do not promise that what you will see is the ballet. The "acceptable alternative" provided when the Bolshoi Ballet is not performing could be "a selection of artistes". The programme starts in April, but Virgin could not say whether those travelling in that month will be seeing arabesques or acrobats (0293 775511).**

TRAVEL BOOK

Terence Conran's *France*, (Conran Octopus, £17.95) celebrates the country in 250 coloured photographs from many sources, and the designer's words. This is the everyday, lovable France of bar-football players, peeling paint, and pert advertisments. If Santa did not bring a copy, francophiles will spend their book-tokens on this one.

S. C. P.

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One man and his dogs

In search of epic adventure in the frozen North

Stephen Lee fights a battle of wills in Lapland from the runners of a sledge

Where to feel on top of the world: crossing the frozen lake at Jukkasjarvi in Lapland by canine power and sledge

Noise from the yelping, yapping, howling hounds was ever-present, reaching a painful crescendo the moment before Henrik finally lifted his snow anchor, commanded "Gopo" and shot his eight-dog team into the void. Instantly the frenzy was replaced by silence, a silence punctuated only by the panting of the dogs and the hoarse whisper of the sleds.

It is a common misconception that when you step into the Arctic Circle you are instantly freeze-dried. Indeed, so unappetising is the public image of Lapland, that the man on the Bakerloo Line might easily place it a few miles south of the North Pole.

Lapland is seen as shrouded in permanent night except for that brief interlude called "summer" and huskies will abandon their driver to a lingering death in the wilderness if he is not strapped to the sledge.

The man on the Jukkasjarvi dog sledge knows better. He will tell you that Lapland consists of those parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland north of the Arctic Circle where nomadic Lapps traditionally followed their migrating reindeer herds. He will also tell you that touring by dog team is one of the best ways of appreciating the wilderness and that March days are long and can even be comparatively warm.

Of course, there is no snow without cold. But when I came to Jukkasjarvi, near Kiruna in northern Sweden, it was gripped by a "heatwave" – temperatures hovered between freezing and minus 10 degrees centigrade, so unseasonally warm for March that the dogs were panting.

Here it quickly became clear why cheque-book adventurers should forsake the certainties of the annual ski trip to follow the imaginary tracks of Jack London through the Scandinavian wilderness.

My journey was in the hands of Henrik Taube, dog handler and wilderness guide. In the true Jack London mould, he cut a swashbuckling dash in his reindeer-skin leggings and boots, lumberjack shirt and Davy Crockett hat.

The first three days of the trip were spent making excursions over the frozen lake, staying in a comfortable chalet in Jukkasjarvi. During this time we made friends with our teams and Henrik got to know us, tempering the rigours of the tour to our abilities and fitness.

But it is the dogs, not the people, who do the work. "Erect-eared straight-tailed hard-furred tawny-grey wild gregarious carnivorous quadruped allied to dog," is the OED definition of wolf. Delete "wild" and you have husky.

The husky has been a sledge dog for thousands of years and whereas a non-working husky which one might see at Crufts could weigh 60 kilos, a working dog would weigh in at a lean 30 kilos. The sledging husky is a long distance runner, bred for stamina, not strength. They love to run.

Having mentally braced myself for a polar epic, the only problem was what to do with the spare energy in the evenings. There was little or no "après-sledge" to sap one's strength. The bar usually closed by 9pm, leaving a choice between floodlit cross country skiing, a sauna or bed!

Beginners take about a week to get used to driving a small three-dog team – a big team can take a whole winter to master.

The sled is made of birch and sits low on the snow. We, the dog-drivers, stood on the long back runners. When it is colder than minus 10 degrees centigrade, a good team can comfortably average 25 mph on the icy surface of the snow. If it is much warmer than that, the dogs start to break through the crust, which impedes progress. Only then does the driver have to help by pushing or taking his weight off the runners.

Henrik invariably went ahead with his team and we followed in line. At every junction, stop or start, we bellowed the commands and the dogs did exactly what we told them to do. Or so we thought.

Later in the week we went on tour, travelling in soft difficult snow for about 35 kilometres a day. It soon became obvious that the dogs were paying no attention to the commands we had patiently learnt.

"Venster (left)!" I demanded with the nonchalance of an old dog hand. They turned right. "Sakta (slowly)!" and I was tipped from the sledge into a snowdrift. "Hiah (pull hard)!" and they collapsed in a conspiratorial heap, rubbed their noses in the snow and waved their legs in the air. The ghost of Jack London would have turned in his grave. Clearly, the dogs just followed the team in front and obeyed only Henrik!

The team, like gravity, was always pulling. We had to be constantly alert, standing on the brake to keep it in the snow, making sure the snow anchor was well buried or firmly attached to a tree. Otherwise they were gone, leaving the driver with an exhausting trudge through deep snow to catch the sled. Kenghis (my lead dog) and I had a running battle for supremacy, which he continually won. I soon ran out of vocabulary, in any tongue, with which to combat the team will.

One night on the three-day tour was spent in a heated tent, the other in a rudimentary forest hut. Despite the occasional tiff between driver and team, there were many opportunities to scan the unspoiled rolling scenery in the hope of seeing elk or reindeer.

Once the concept of travel across the wilderness by dog sledge is grasped, the possibilities are endless. Although short sledge trips can even be made in the Alps, Lapland is one of the few areas where you can make a prolonged dog sledge tour in open country.

TRAVEL NOTES

There is sufficient snow cover in Lapland for dog sledging trips anytime between November and April. The coldest and darkest month is December, but snow conditions are still excellent. By the end of February daylight is catching up with the UK, and overtakes it by mid-March. During my visit we had sunshine every single day in March and early April. No special physical preparation or experience is needed for an aspirant dog sledger.

I flew SAS London to Stockholm (2½ hours, Apex return £197), and from Stockholm to Kiruna (1½ hours, £106 return), followed by a 10-minute car transfer to Jukkasjarvi, all from Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), reservations 01-734 4020.

Seven days full board, with dog sledging at Jukkasjarvi costs £520. Dog sledging is only one of many unusual winter adventures arranged by Top of Europe Tours, Sanduiksgatan 53, 95132 Lulea, Sweden. Telephone 010 46 920 940 70.

WHAT'S ON

SKI REPORT

The rain of a week ago followed by warm sunny weather has really sorted out the men from the boys. The big high resorts in France and Switzerland, with plenty of skiing above 8,000 feet, are able to provide good snow and balmy conditions for late December. But the smaller, lower resorts are experiencing a desparate shortage with visitors being bussed to better-off areas. Even in Val d'Isère, which is among the best off, many of the runs to the village are shut. Most skiers would rather queue for a considerable time to get the cable car down rather than face the treacherous icy run home in the evening. Any snow that falls in the next few days will make the increasingly crusty conditions at high level almost ideal, but at lower levels it will be hard to absorb the heavy demands of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Bill Burroughs

FRANCE
Les Arcs Free monoski and snowboard lessons. **Courchevel 1850** Toboggan descent open to all, December 28. New Year's Eve ski show and fireworks. **Flaine** Torchlight descent, December 31. **La Plagne** Ski Vandel Trophy: Grand Prix des Champions, December 28. Lacroix Ski Trophy: Grand Prix des Champions, December 30. **Megève** International Hockey Tournament December 26-31.

AUSTRIA
Schladming Men's World Cup Downhill, December 31. **Söll** Ski instructors torchlight descent, with fireworks and music, December 31. **Innsbruck** World Cup Nordic Jumping 90 metre hill, January 3. **Kitzbühel** New Year's torchlight descent and firework display, January 1. **Mayrhofen** Freestyle Ski Show, December 30 and January 2. **St Anton** Ski Show, December 29.

SWITZERLAND
St Moritz Daily bobsleigh races, December 28 to January 3. Punch and Judy Show, December 30.

GERMANY
Garmisch Nordic Jumping World Cup, 90 metre hill, January 1.

ITALY
Cervinia Christmas party, December 29. Ski instructors torchlight descent, December 30.

Peter Hankey

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

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DRINK

New Year fizz for paupers and princes

Now that own label champagne from the supermarket can cost almost £100 a case, there can be few of us who will see in 1988 exclusively with this *luxurious* fizz.

Party givers in particular will be looking for acceptable and enjoyable alternatives to the real thing, at half the price. So here is *my guide to* the best of the New Year sparklers for paupers and princes.

BEST PARTY SPARKLERS:

G.F.Cavalier Brut, Oddbins £2.68; Majestic Wine Warehouses £2.69:
French grapes and German technology continue to combine to make this light, crisp, appley fizz the best bubbly bargain buy in the country.

Moscato Frizzante, Marks & Spencer £2.50:
This lovely fresh, sweet, grapey Italian sparkler has all of the mouthwatering charm of the Muscat grape for an extraordinarily low price. A good clean party tipple for those who dislike bone dry wines; *its low 7.5 per cent* alcohol level, will also appeal to drivers.

BEST ALTERNATIVES TO CHAMPAGNE

1985 Crémant de Bourgogne, Cave de Viré, Asda £4.99:
There is lots of Viré fizz about but this delicious, young, fresh, lively pineappley sparkler is the best of the bunch and a £1 cheaper than the others. Made exclusively from the classy Chardonnay grape, this gently sparkling Crémant has less fizz than the fully *mousseux*, or sparkling wines, and as such is better with food.

Eric Beaumont

Jean Perico Brut, Oddbins £4.89:
Distributed by Gonzalez Byass, this first class Spanish *sparkler, like the Crémant*, is a *méthode champenoise* wine, made by one of the best Spanish producers. Its greeny-gold colour and warm, full-bodied, fruity style should appeal to most palates.

BEST NON-VINTAGE CHAMPAGNES

J. de Telmont Grande Réserve Brut, Majestic £7.95:
My vote for New Year 1988's star non-vintage champagne, priced under £8 a bottle, goes to L'Hôpital family's Grande Réserve. This pale gold, delicious, big, rich biscuity mouthful is a black grape dominated wine and as such should cope with most party foods.

Alfred Gratien Cuvée de Réserve, Arthur Rackhams £10.99; The Market £11.99; winecellars 153/155 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 £10.99:
Its fine mousse, herbaceous bouquet and deep, ripe, fruity-peppery palate plus its modest price make this full-flavoured wine one of my favourite non-vintage champagnes.

Laurent Perrier Brut, Oddbins £11.99; Majestic £11.95:
A well-made fruity, appley champagne whose light, zippy, Chardonnay dominated style makes it an especially good aperitif or fish wine.

BEST VINTAGE CHAMPAGNES.

1982 Sainsbury's Blanc de Blancs, Linard Gontier, Sainsbury's £9.95:
Staggeringly good value for a vintage champagne, this wine comes from a co-operative in the less distinguished Sézanne district. Despite that, its refined, toasted almond scent and wonderful rich, mature, toasty palate makes this vintage champagne offering a star buy.

1979 Alfred Gratien Brut, Arthur Rackhams £15.69; Winecellars £16.65; The Market £18.50:
Buttercup gold in colour with a positive yeasty nose backed up by a glorious rich, fruity, digestive biscuit-like taste, this stylish '79 has been *fermented in* oak and the extra care shows.

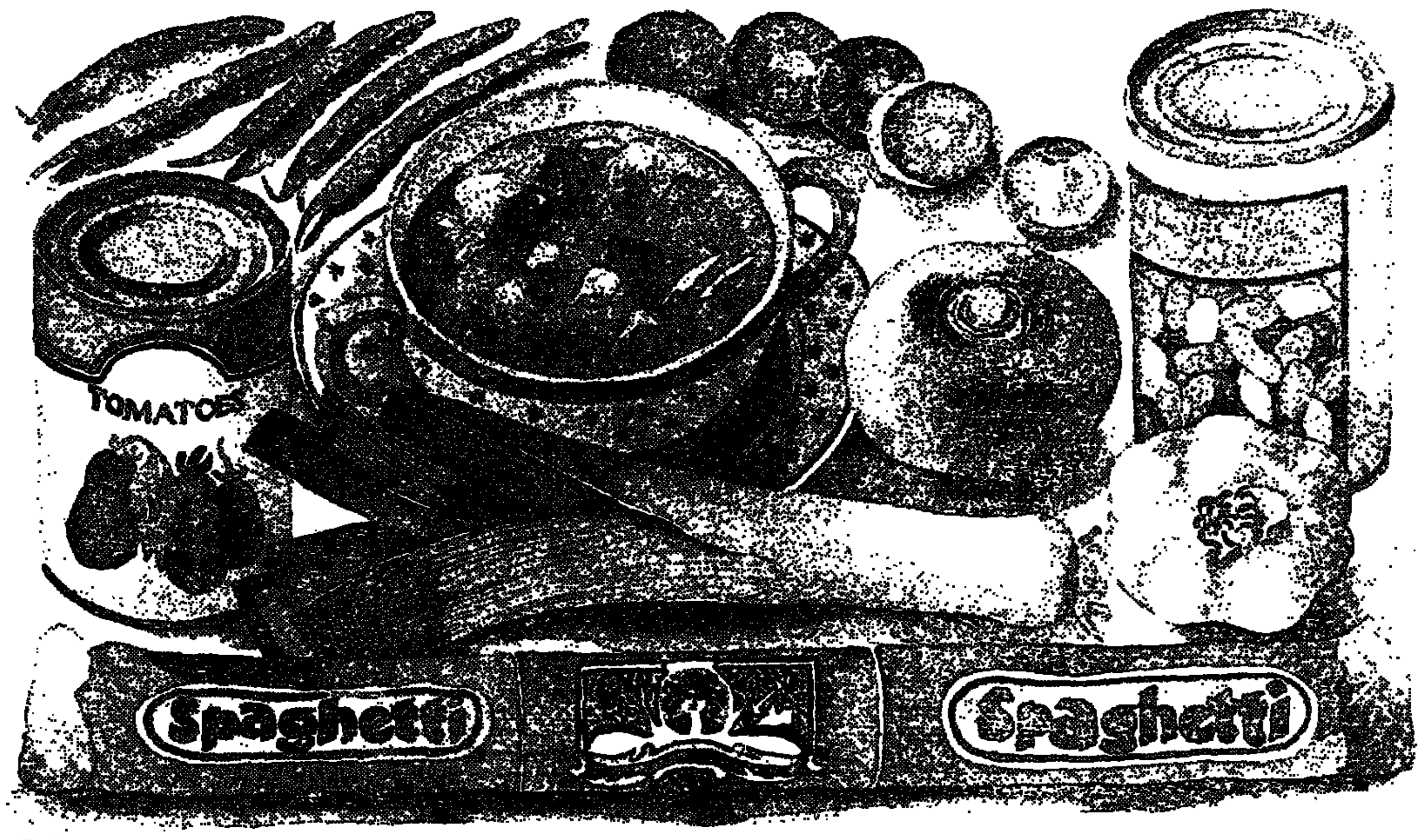
1982 Pol Roger, Oddbins £17.50, Fortnum and Mason, £19.40:

My idea of a great glass of vintage champagne; pale gold in colour with a pretty pink edge backed up by an *elegant* freesia-like scent plus a fine flowery-biscuity palate and that rich creamy mousse that all Pol Roger champagnes have.

Jane MacQuitty

THE TIMES COOK

Diana Leadbetter



Now back to basics

After the excesses of traditional seasonal feasting, **Frances Bissell** suggests some less rich dishes that can be made from the turkey and other leftovers

Let's just have simple food this week. Something comforting and plain after those rich, heavy meals. *Let us* have meals that are easy to prepare and above all easy to serve. When you are tired of cooking and entertaining, it is very easy to go to the *opposite* extreme and cook nothing, serving everything cold – not a happy thought at the end of December.

If you are intending to serve a platter of cold meats over the weekend, I would suggest a warming soup to begin with. The bean and vegetable soup is one of our favourites and, in fact, makes a meal on its own. You could serve it as a substantial lunch or supper dish, with little more than bread, cheese and salad. You should also feel free to vary the ingredients according to what you can get and leave out the pasta for a lighter soup.

It is a very good way of using up delicious stock from the carcass of whatever bird you served yesterday. *And if there is still a lot of meat on it*, do try the spicy, flaky pie. The strange-sounding combination of sweet-sour, savoury and spicy works extremely well and makes a dish that is worth preparing from scratch, not only as a vehicle for leftovers. It would fit perfectly into a meal starting and finishing with cold dishes.

Many people I know save their *Christmas pudding* for Boxing Day, or serve the leftovers fried in butter with a hot sweet sauce or even with ice-cream. But if you are tired of those rich, heavy flavours, you might like a *creamy*, mild rice pudding, its bland texture and flavour a perfect antidote to the season's rich *feasting*.

I have also included a recipe for fish pie. It will be appreciated by carnivores, as well as those who do not eat meat. Frozen leaf spinach can be used instead of fresh, and the pie can be even further dressed up with the addition of shellfish. This begins to stray away from the plain food but is perhaps an idea to save and serve for New Year's Eve.

Unless you are in need of masses of comforting and carbohydrates, you *will not want to* eat the following dishes all in the same meal.

The soup recipe is for a particularly delicious and satisfying course. The combination of the pulse and the grain provides first class protein. It is a good way of using up cooked beans from another dish, but it is also worth cooking the beans especially for this dish. If you use tinned beans, they *should* be added only 5 minutes before the end of cooking. Turkey, duck or ham stock will all make good soup. Vegetarians can make a stock by cooking a selection of vegetables, some herbs and a handful of pulses in water for an hour.

Bean, pasta and vegetable soup
Serves 4-6

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
1 celery stalk, peeled and finely chopped
1 carrot, peeled and finely chopped
garlic, peeled and crushed (optional)
4 oz/110gm tinned or fresh tomato, peeled and seeded
8 oz/230gm pre-soaked beans, haricot or cannellini
1 leek
1 small white or purple turnip, peeled, trimmed and sliced or diced
1 carrot, peeled. trimmed and sliced or diced
2 pints/1.15 litres stock
1 bay leaf or sage leaf
1 or 2 courgettes, if available
2 oz/60gm green beans
4 oz/110gm shredded cabbage
4 oz/110gm spaghetti
salt, pepper
1 tablespoon pesto (optional)

Heat the olive oil in a heavy saucepan and gently fry the onion, celery, carrot and garlic until beginning to soften. Add the tomato, raise the heat, and cook until the liquid has evaporated. Add the beans, vegetables, herbs and the stock. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 1½ hours or until the beans are tender.

Dice the courgettes, break the beans *into two or three pieces, and add these* vegetables, with the cabbage and the pasta, to the soup. Cook for a further 15 minutes, season to taste, and stir in the pesto if you have it. Serve very hot. For an even more substantial dish, which really turns this into a meal, put a *thick* slice of wholemeal bread in the bottom of each soup bowl, pour a tablespoon of good olive oil over it, then fill the bowl with soup.

For the next recipe, you can use a mixture of fresh and smoked fish. I like to use fresh haddock and undyed smoked haddock, which is worth ordering from your fishmonger.

Fish pie
Serves 4 to 6

1½lb/680gm fish fillet
1½lb/680gm potatoes
1lb/455gm freshly cooked and drained *spinach* – or frozen spinach
½ oz/15gm butter
4 eggs
seasoning

Poach the fish in milk or a mixture of milk and water, or steam it for five to eight minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool. When cool enough to handle, flake it and put to one side. Peel and boil the potatoes. Drain and mash until smooth. If you have poached the fish, add some of *the poaching liquid to the potatoes to* make them creamy. Make sure the spinach is fairly dry.

Having buttered *an ovenproof* dish, place the spinach in the bottom, and lay the fish on top. Separate the eggs. Beat the egg yolks into the potato and season, perhaps also adding a grating of fresh nutmeg. Whisk the egg whites until stiff, and fold them gently into the mashed potato mixture. Spread this evenly over the fish right to the edges of the dish. Bake in the centre of a pre-heated oven for 20 minutes at 200 C/400 F/gas mark 5.

Despite all your best intentions. you probably have a refrigerator full of leftovers. Here is a pie which uses up cooked poultry or feathered game. It is very loosely based on the crisp pastries of north Africa, which mix meat with sugar and spices. Though it may sound strange, it is a delicious combination which I am sure you will like. Use filo pastry if you can get it, otherwise *flaky or puff pastry will do.*

Spiced turkey pie
serves 4 to 6

1lb/455gm cooked turkey or other poultry, cut into 1 inch/2.5cm pieces
3 tablespoons sugar
4 oz/110gm flaked almonds, cooked in butter
4 oz/110gm chopped dried fruit (apricots or pears)
1 lemon, quartered and cut into small pieces
2 teaspoons ground coriander
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
12 sheets filo pastry
2-3 oz/60-85gm melted butter
3 eggs
¼ pint/140ml strong turkey stock

Put the turkey pieces in a bowl with the sugar, almonds, fruit, lemon and spices and mix thoroughly. *Stack the* filo pastry sheets on a barely damp tea towel, and brush the top sheet of *pastry with the melted butter. Butter a* 10 x 8 x 2 inch (25.5 x 10.5 x 5cm) dish, and lay the first sheet of pastry in the bottom. The edges will overlap the rim of the dish. Brush the second sheet with butter, and lay on top of the first, and deal with the third in the same way. Cut the next three sheets to fit the base of the dish. Butter each one, and lay in the pastry-lined dish.

Put the turkey and spiced fruit mixture into the pie dish. Beat the eggs and stock, and pour this over the *turkey. Cut four sheets of pastry to fit* the pie dish. butter them, and lay them one on top of the other, covering the turkey mixture. bring the edges of the overlapping pastry sheets over the top *of the pie. Some of it may be dry and* brittle by now, but trim the corners and edges to make a neat fit.

There will be two sheets of pastry left. Cut two rectangles to neatly fit the top of the pie, brush each one with *melted butter and* lay on top. If you are using flaky or puff pastry instead of filo pastry, simply divide the pastry into two, roll out one piece to line the dish and the second to make the lid.

Bake in a pre-heated oven at 160° C/325° F/gas mark 3 for 30 minutes, then at 190° C/ 375° F/gas mark 5 for 10 minutes to brown the pastry. A garnish of blanched almonds. olives and mint leaves looks good.

Vanilla rice pudding
serves 4 to 6

½ oz/15gm unsalted butter
2½ oz/70gm round grain or pudding rice
1½ pints/850ml full cream milk
2 tablespoons sugar
3 inch/7.5cm strip of lemon zest
3 inch/7.5cm cinnamon stick
½ vanilla pod

Butter a pie dish, and put in all the ingredients. Bake for two to three hours in a very low oven, *150° C/* 300° F/gas mark 2. Two or three times during cooking, stir in the skin which *forms on the* surface. After about 1½ hours, remove the cinnamon stick and *vanilla* pod. *The lemon* zest will almost have disintegrated and can be stirred in. Split the vanilla pod open, and scrap out the sticky seeds. Stir these into the pudding with the cream *if you are using it*, and allow it to bake undisturbed for the rest of the cooking time. *It is slow cooking which* gives the pudding its creamy texture.

EATING OUT

And for a little light refreshment

Eating may be the last thing on your mind today, but **Jonathan Meades** has a tempting change on the menu

This column may be the last thing you will *want to* look at this morning. I understand. *I know* just how you're feeling. So, cut out and keep this article till satiety is overcome.

The point of the (newish) *places here* is that, one way and another, they are broachable in the aftermath of Christmas overload. At least their cooking is. I guess that if you've been glued to television commercials for the past few weeks, **Sutherland's** will seem all too familiar.

Decoratively, it resembles the sets of those advertisements which peddle the glamour of dereliction chic. You know the sort of thing: a *broken down*, but *miraculously* clean, warehouse in which a male model has made his home along with several hundred gallons of super-strength lager and lots of video equipment.

So, you saw it in the commercial, now you can eat in it. It is hardly astonishing that this establishment in what was till recently a *comparative* backwater *of* Soho should be part-owned by an adman. And it is further like an ad in that it is stronger in manner than in matter. "Style" is all.

The cooking, though, is the sort of stuff that was high fashion the day before yesterday.

Now, this isn't to say that there's anything awry with the kitchen. It makes a fine truffle soup. You are presented with a plate bowl in whose centre *sits a lonely ravioli*, stuffed with pigeon; after you've had a few seconds in which to admire this tiny pasta envelope (and wonder if that's *all you're getting*) the *soup* itself is poured into the bowl, and, as I say, it's good stuff.

A *terrine* of foie gras and pigeon belonged. however, to the anatomy lesson school of cooking: it was over-salty and came with an orange coloured butter-based sauce that matched the walls.

A similarly coloured sauce showed up with some rather good partridge whose lay-out *was apparently of such* precision that one of the waiters came to alter the position of my plate in order that I might better appreciate the arrangement.

The other main course was described on the menu (which is like an ad agency brochure) as "three light omelettes". A *light omelette is about* the size of a large oyster shell. A light omelette is served with a variety of pulses which suggest that a creative decision has been made to attract the health food generation now that it *has grown up and got* some money.

The one sweet we ate was poor. A tiny quoit of Bonchester cheese was served in a fussy little pastry tart with an acidly dressed salad of peaches and truffles. Afterwards some decent chocolates were served on a tiny fancy tray. With two *aperitifs*, a *bottle of splendid* Acacia Winery Pinot Noir and two coffees this meal cost £81. If you want somewhere on New Year's Eve that will damage your wallet rather than your stomach this might *be it.*

Jamdani is quite the latest thing in Indian restaurants – that's to say that it doesn't look like any sort of Indian restaurant, that its cooking is of a pretty high standard and *that it costs quite a bit*. A meal for two with no alcohol save one *aperitif but with* a great deal of salt lassi to drink cost £61.

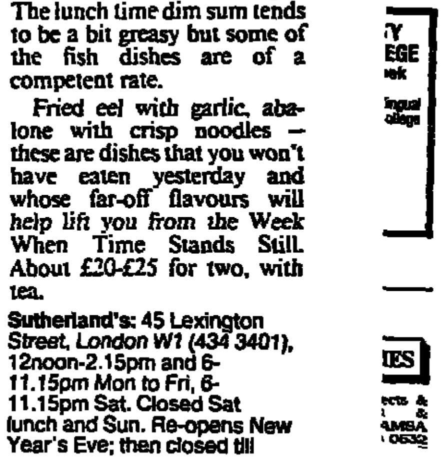
It is elegant in a frigid way – its decor, more appropriate to a *hot clime* than to London in winter, is very restained, with *walls* that *recall adobe and* a floor that is composed of ferrous-tinged stone *tiles*.

Some of the dishes that it offers are unusual. There is, *for instance*, one of hare and it's very pleasing, not least because it's a rare case of *meat* being able to stand up to heavy spicing.

Pomfret, an Indian Ocean fish now finding favour among European cooks, is delicately flavoured; and there is something called Amritsa fish which is spiced fish in batter. More commonly *encountered* dishes are done with uncommon panache; *dahl is cut with ginger, king* prawns are notably fresh, lamb kebabs are made with that meat rather than mutton.

Sweets include a curiosity composed of pineapple and vermicelli served at scalding heat, and another composed of slices of (supermarket sliced) bread soaked in egg and *milk and cooked with saffron*. It's altogether a fairly impressive performance, and one which, I suspect, demonstrates the link between high *Indian cooking* and Indian home cooking.

Francis Mosley


It's the same every Christmas, he just doesn't know when to stop

The **London Chinatown** is not to be confused with the Chinatown which is next door to it. The place is a Cantonese cafe with some restaurant trappings. It is large, animated *and the cooking is all right*. The lunch time dim sum tends to be a bit greasy but some of the fish dishes are of a competent rate.

Fried eel with *garlic*, abalone with crisp noodles – these are dishes that you won't have eaten yesterday and whose far-off flavours will *help lift you from* the Week When Time Stands Still. About *£20-£25* for two, with tea.

Sutherland's: 45 Lexington *Street, London W1 (434 3401)*, 12noon-2.15pm and 6-*11.15pm Mon to Fri*, 6-11.15pm Sat. Closed Sat lunch and Sun. Re-opens New Year's Eve; then closed till Jan 4.

Jamdani: 34 Charlotte Street, London W1 (636 1178), 12.30-2.30pm and 6-11.30pm every day. Re-opens Dec 28.

London Chinatown: 27 Gerrard Street, London W1 (437 3186), 12noon-*11.30pm every day. Open* today.

NEW YEAR'S EVE RESTAURANTS

Welcome 1988 in grand style

ROBIN YOUNG gives *his guide to restaurants where they will be celebrating the passing of the old and the arrival of the new year.*

LONDON

Hyatt Carlton Tower: 2 Cadogan Place, SW1 (01-235 5411): *Black and Silver Ball* with the Johnny Howard *Orchestra* in the *Ballroom*, £95; a five-course gourmet meal *created by Bernard Gaume* with "quietly civilised resident pianist" in the *renovated* Chelsea Room, £75; or a four-course dinner with the Banana Splits disco in the Rib Room, £69.

The *London Hilton*: Park Lane, W1 (01-493 8000): Rosemary Squire in the *Rooftop* restaurant (£135), Joe Loss and *Marti Webb in the* Ballroom (£105) and discos and *dinner-dances* in four further restaurants and bars *priced from £65 to £75.*

May *Fair Hotel*: Stratton Street, W1 (01-629 *7777*): £85 buys an *eight-course* dinner, cabaret, disco, lots of raffles and prizes, and a *half-bottle* of champagne each.

Le Meridien: Piccadilly, W1 (01-734 *8000*): *French* haute cuisine with music, dancing, caviare and *champagne* in the vastly ornate Oak Room at £95 a head, or a *five-course dinner* with live entertainment in the Terrace Garden at £50.

Ninety Park Lane: W1 (01-499 6363 ext 4982): 1920s dinner

Francis Mosley

dance with champagne throughout the seven-course meal, £146 per person.

No. Fifty-Seven: 57 Jermyn Street, SW1 (01-629 8483):Champagne and caviar *reception, five-course dinner*, musicians, singer and *surprises* at one of London's hotter new restaurants, £75.

St. James Court Hotel: Buckingham Gate, SW1 (01-834 6655): Gala dinner and *dance* with drummer, piper and breakfast in the small hours, *Edwardian Room, £60;* gala dinner and dance in the *Auberge de Provence*, £60.

The Savoy: Strand, WC2 (01-836 4343): Black-tie champagne and cocktail reception, six-course gala dinner, dancing to the Pasadena Roof Orchestra and Mike McKenzie Quintet and cabaret by the Regimental Band of the Irish Guards, £135 per person in the River Restaurant. In the Lancaster Room a ball with five-course *dinner costs* £115, and a special New Year's Eve menu in the *Grill* is £45.

COUNTRY

Restaurant 74, 74 Wincheap, *Canterbury*, Kent (0227-76741): Ian McAndrew's New Year's Eve dinners are usually reunions for regulars: he has not decided what to serve, but he will still be charging £40.

Horsted Place: Uckfield, *Sussex (0825-75581): Just one* table remaining for gala dinner *dance with Scots piper*, a *five-piece* band in the gallery, fireworks and *champagne at* midnight, £80 including wines.

Mr Underhill's: Stonham, Stowmarket, Suffolk (0449-711206): A seven-course *dinner* with throwballs, party poppers, crackers and "uproarious" guests, £35.

Corse Lawn House Hotel: *Corse Lawn, Gloucestershire* (045278-479): Baba Hine will *be including a Scottish soup* and roast venison in the £27.50 dinner.

Michael's Nook: Grasmere, Cumbria (09665-496): Eight-course dinner including champagne, haggis and roast gosling, £40.

SCOTLAND

Peat Inn: near Cupar, Fife (033484-206): David Wilson will be serving a seven-course menu at £25 as well as a la carte meals at about £20.

Auchterarder House: Auchterarder, Tayside (07646-*3646 or 2939: Cocktail* reception, five-course dinner, a trio, pink champagne and a firework display which can be watched from the conservatory, £37.50.

Houstoun House: Phall, *Lothian (0506-853831):* a traditional four-course Hogmanay dinner in a traditionally fortified manor house, £26.

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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

A waste of talent

Given the hunks of prime Robert Louis Stevenson still hanging around begging for televisual adaptation, the choice of *The Story of a Recluse* (BBC2) was quirky to the point of perversity.

In the space of a few pages, a feckless medical student wins on the horses, gets blind drunk and comes to in the bedroom of an exotic beauty. "I am not thinking of you in the least," is her response to his predicament: "I am thinking of myself." End of manuscript.

One can see the tantalizing allure of this unfinished narrative — in particular, the two near-identical houses of diametrically opposed character, and the father-son tension that adumbrates *Weir of Hermiston* — but last night's speculative continuation was less RLS than Alasdair Gray, whose idea this awkward exercise was. Instead of constructing a plausible edifice on the scant foundations to hand, the adaptor erected a wafer-thin facade topped by no less than three variant climaxes, the whole punctuated by anthorial interpolations and wild overacting from David Hayman pretending to be the film's director. Perhaps some day soon Mr Gray will invent the *nouveau roman*. His undistinguished dialogue was a sad waste of Peter Capaldi and Stewart Granger.

Earlier, on Channel 4, *Everybody Say Yeah!* provided the second opportunity of the week to witness Paul Simon's continuing love affair with black music. Replacing his T-shirt with Sunday best, he introduced a galaxy of gospel singers from the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, which turned out to be a theatre with stained glass windows.

"A change is gonna come", howled Luther Vandross from in front of the organ. Not on American television, it is not. Unimpeachably Christian sentiments consort uneasily with such slick packaging, and the most sincere items on view were Mr Simon's eyebrows. If they become any more sincere, he may well find himself running for President.

Martin Cropper

Bring on the dancing llamas

Animals are back in the Big Top as circuses defy their critics from the RSPCA. Richard Morrison reports

Holy booking: Gerry Cottle's elephant act gets the blessing of Canon John Morris, but not of the RSPCA

Politically safe: traditional clowns like Orlwyz and Harry Hazzard

The "Cottle and Austen Traditional Circus Extravaganza", which opens in Battersea Park Hippodrome today, may or may not be the most exciting and colourful show in London this Christmas. But one thing is certain: it will be the most controversial.

For Gerry Cottle, who once ran his circus entirely without animals, has now accomplished a remarkable volte-face. His Battersea cast reads like the passenger-list of Noah's Ark: Miss Lianne's Doggy Revue; Captain James Clubb's Wild Animals; Cottle's own Epsom Riders; elephants, big cats, camels, llamas, cattle, wolves, hyenas, a hippo, a kangeroo, some zebras. It is a line-up that will incense the many animal protection groups in this country, notably the RSPCA, which has campaigned for a total ban on all performing animals.

Animal circuses, far from being forced into closure, seem to be fighting back. "Business has gone right back up," says Cottle. Malcolm Cray, secretary of the Association of Circus Proprietors, agrees: "There are 12 large travelling circuses with animals in Britain at present, more than at any time since 1945. In fact, the more animals you've got, the better business you do. The first question at the box office is always: what animals have you got? And I think the physical assaults have also turned public opinion against the more extreme animal-lib groups."

It seemed very different five years ago. Stylish impresarios like Bertram Mills and Billy Smart had finished; famous circus families like the Chipperfields were diversifying into politically safer pursuits such as safari parks. Diesel fuel costs, VAT and the price of raw meat (a lion will comfortably tuck away 18 pounds a day) were forcing travelling circuses off the road. British quarantine regulations made foreign tours difficult, and our child labour laws — rather tighter than in many continental countries — threatened traditional "family" acts.

One obvious problem was that although the British invented the modern circus, it has never acquired either social status or state backing here. The Soviet Union has 70 permanent and 32 travelling circuses, fed by circus schools and massively state-subsidized. In America the giant troupes of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus haul their colossal three-ring circuses across 50 states in a perfectly-planned commercial operation. In continental Europe, the perception of circus as "high art" rather than low-brow titillation is epitomized by the glittering International Circus Festivals staged by Prince Rainier in Monte Carlo.

Yet in Britain circuses have led precarious and sometimes squalid existences. Cottle's own circus is typical. Kept alive during the 1970s by its owner's buccaneering spirit and a host of gimmicks ("Circus on Ice" and a "Rock 'n' Roll Circus" with Gary Glitter being two spectacularly short-lived examples), it was eventually forced into temporary liquidation by Cottle's disastrous operations in 1980 — not, in retrospect, the best year for a circus tour of Iran.

But it has undoubtedly been the RSPCA that has made life most difficult. In 1979 the organization controversially sponsored the "humans only" Hassani Circus, and in 1981 it launched a big advertising campaign against travelling circuses. Bear-baiting and geese made to "dance" on hot metal plates may be bygone spectacles, but the RSPCA still put forward the view that all animal acts are relics of an age when pregnant women were sent down coal mines and small children pushed up chimneys.

As a result, around 50 local councils banned circuses from their land, although circuses often made deals with farmers or local football clubs instead. Cottle's much-vaunted no-animals circus began in 1984, but lasted barely two years. "Circuses without animals never caught on, except in loony-left strongholds like Highbury Fields," he says. "In any case, there was a lot of hypocrisy. The GLC banned performing animals, yet Ken Livingstone rode one of my elephants to a Peace Pagoda in Battersea."

More recently, animal welfare campaigners purchased shares in Lord Delfont's First Leisure Corporation, which owns Britain's most important "permanent site" circus, at the Blackpool Tower. At this year's annual general meeting they startled Delfont by claiming that he owned an "animal concentration camp" in Blackpool. However, First Leisure does not manage the Blackpool circus; that is done by Peter Jay, who owns the Great Yarmouth Circus (devotees of early Sixties pop may also recall Peter Jay and the Jaywalkers).

Jay was effectively given an ultimatum by First Leisure: remove the animals, or the Blackpool contract goes elsewhere in 1991. But Jay is a man who knows a thing or two about survival in the popular entertainment game. Throughout the 1987 summer season, patrons of the Blackpool Circus were asked to sign a petition calling for the animals' retention. Jay now claims to have 80,000 signatures in his favour.

He also strongly denies the "concentration camp" accusations: "We get on well with the RSPCA locally, and give them all the access they want. It's only their head office that is anti-circus. In fact all members of the Association of Circus Proprietors abide by very strict rules: the stories you have heard all concern non-ACP operators."

The RSPCA argues its case on several fronts: that travelling circuses necessarily keep animals caged for 22 hours a day; that the training involves unacceptable stress if not outright cruelty; and, most fundamentally, that there is something morally wrong with forcing animals to perform tricks. It also contradicts the circus owners' claim that RSPCA inspectors have access at any time. "The circuses let us see the secondary training — the daily rehearsal of an act — but not an animal's primary training," says Paul Vodden for the RSPCA.

In any case, the RSPCA's powers are hampered by legislation which all sides admit is outdated: a Protection of Animals Act, passed in 1911 and therefore pre-dating modern animal-behavioural research, and a 1925 Act which simply requires performing animals to be registered. Much to the RSPCA's annoyance, circuses were exempted from the 1981 Zoo Licensing Act, which regulated conditions for keeping animals. Since then, the Labour Party has proposed making all performing-animal acts illegal, while seeming to give its blessing to angling and shooting — entertainments that are hardly conducive to the good health of the animals concerned.

The accusation of "double standards" is perhaps the circus's most potent argument. If training circus animals is cruel, why not police-dogs or the Horse of the Year? If keeping animals in captivity is cruel, is not most of the nation guilty? The circus lobby also claims that far worse horrors happen abroad. There was the 1984 Athens fire, for instance, which killed 300 caged circus animals, or the outcry in Alabama over "Tim Rivers' Original High Diving Aqua Mules", an act which involved donkeys jumping off 30-foot high platforms into water tanks.

But there is also a gut feeling among circus folk that circus animals suffer no greater hardships, degradations or dangers than those which humans require of themselves. It is, after all, the human ape that undertakes the tightrope-walking, the fire-eating, the sword-swallowing, the knife-throwing and the stunts on the flying trapeze. Much of it, naturally, includes a fair dose of fakery and finagling. Nevertheless, acrobats do fall to their death; and trainers still get stamped on by elephants, or decapitated by lions. Of course, the humans do have a choice.

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REVIEW

Paperbacks

Two reflections of life

Coasting, by Jonathan Raban (Picador, £3.95)

Coasting is a travel book that inspects the meaning of travel itself, as if Jonathan Raban cannot cease turning back to examine his own footprints in the sand.

A record of four years (1982-6) spent sailing around Britain in an antique ketch, it is a form of literary self-scrutiny resonantly at odds with a country which, Raban tells us, is afraid of questioning its own land-locked certainties. An unusual and talented travel writer, Raban is unimpressed by the glamour of exodus, and sceptical about the consolations of home-coming.

What he is sure about is the disillusionment of arrival. He has an ideal which he tests against every port he enters. At sea, everything, including Britain's coastline, seems to be miraculously afloat. Everything has the potential for instant change. But on land, Raban finds only stubbornness and stasis — the hubris of islanders. "Sitting tight in an island you see yourself as occupying the centre of the world."

Turning into port after port in search of Britain, he finds only *Britains* — stiff, cracked versions of national identity processed by a country drained of fertile unities and binding symbols.

In Rye, he finds no living town, just a museum of Englishness. Returning to London, he experiences the capital as a "cabinet of famous icons". Dartmouth at night he sees as a place of infinite possibility, its lights blazing like Manhattan, but dawn shows just another "English seaside town".

Watching Britain from his watery trenches throughout 1982, Raban sees the Falklands campaign as our dire nemesis, and yet another attempt at processed identity — "the Dunkirk spirit now being busily rebottled as the Falklands spirit".

He saves himself from the hubris of the commentator as Orwell did: with touching self-inspection. Watching the departure of a Falklands-bound warship, he is ashamed to discover himself "blubbering with silly pride in Queen and Country".

But Raban is unable to locate the Britain of his dreams. He cannot find it in the Britain of his childhood (stifling village life, a hearty public school) and he resents the Britain we have become.

Floating between the two rejections, bereft of available nostalgia but awash with fine, melancholic writing, *Coasting* becomes tha quintessential English tribute: an elegy — not for a lost Britain (where would we find it?) but for loss itself.

James Wood

Arabia Through the Looking Glass, by Jonathan Raban (Picador £3.95)

In a petroleum office complex in Dubai, Jonathan Raban spots a cool brook glistening over pebbles. He is impressed: flowing water in such a hot dry place. "Highlighted polyurethane," explains a technician. "Transparent film. Gives the illusion of water without the water."

At this Raban understandably balks a little. Money can buy water: here it buys the image of water. But the image is preferable, as it's transparently expensive, like a Rolex watch.

Raban's masterly *Arabia Through the Looking Glass* is all about perspective and illusion. He talks first of the British perspective, the earlier writings of such authors as Lawrence and Thesiger whose legacy is a fond image of Arabia as "a tough utopia" without money or machines. What a shock, then, when the Arabs get money and spoil it all.

At the start of *Arabia*, Raban is still in London, witnessing the British reaction to the newly wealthy Arabs, the xenophobic snort of laughter ("white rugs, with pile about a *foot* thick, made of some ghastly polystyrene fur!"). The British can't see beyond the visitors' Bad Taste.

So off Raban goes, to peep beyond the looking glass, at Manama, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sanaa, Cairo and Jordan; catching images pungent as smells. Out in the old land with new money, change is happening quicker than you can say fast food. Buildings spring up like tropical plants. Temporary labour is imported from abroad. The place is in dangerous flux, and there's a national anxiety that at the current breakneck rate of change the past will be lost beyond recall.

In Qatar there are various "custodians of the national memory," as Raban dubs them: television producers, for instance, who make programmes to remind the Qataris of "who they are"; about feuding bedouin tribesmen in the 14th century and so forth.

To an elderly bedouin he talks about the dangers of urbanization — cultural anonymity, rising crime. "You have a television," begins Raban.

"Two!" he interrupts him. The bedouin regards his television as no westerner does. It is suddenly plain to Raban that the "westernization" he sees is a thin varnish over an inalienably different culture. "The more I talked, the more unreal the words sounded in my head. They listened politely while I spoke of marooned wives in tower blocks and juvenile delinquency. Nothing like that, they assured me, would ever happen here."

The book's most persistent image, though, is of a puzzle or a riddle; the city of Sanaa that is like "a mad encyclopaedia", a dense jungle of symbols. And it's a perplexing culture, where poverty exists side by side with enormous wealth.

Arriving in Arabia he experiences culture shock. Returning home the culture shock is more intense: Raban looks at England with the dislocated stare of the stranger. In place of the noisy, personal, aggressive, and friendly crowd abroad, the British crowd flows cold and impersonal. There is a great barrier; no one meets another's eyes.

It's a marvellous book: the reader can suddenly see the West through a Middle-Eastern glass; and it looks very hostile.

Kathy O'Shaugnessy

CHESS

Moves of a master

For the past 10 weeks I have been in Seville watching every move and countermove of those two great champions, Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov. The result was in the balance until the last minute, that is until Kasparov won the title (for the third time in just two years) in the decisive 24th game.

Here is that dramatic game, a chessboard classic. The adjourned position was flashed around the world and chess lovers everywhere must have spent a sleepless night on December 18 trying to decide whether Kasparov could win and stay champion or Karpov could draw and seize the title.

Kasparov himself demonstrated the critical variations to me during his victory celebration.

White: Kasparov; Black: Karpov. Game 24, English/-Reti.

1 c4 e6 2 Nf3 Nf6
3 g3 d5 4 b3 Be7
5 Bg2 0-0

The fact that Karpov had taken 15 minutes over these obvious and simple moves indicates the psychological tension pressing on him.

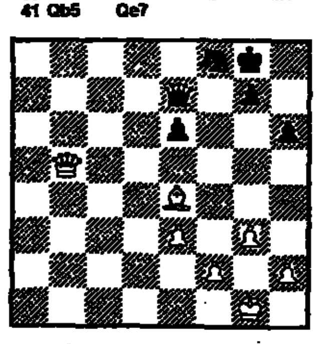
6 0-0 b6 7 Bb2 Bb7
8 e3 Nbd7 9 Nc3 Ne4
10 Ne2 a5 11 d3 Bf6
12 Qc2 Bxb2 13 Qxb2 Nd6
14 cxd5 Bxd5 15 d4 c5
16 Rfd1 Rc8 17 Nf4 Bxf3
18 Bxf3 Qe7 19 Rac1 Rfd8
20 dxc5 Nxc5 21 b4 axb4
22 Qxb4 Qa7 23 a3 Nf5
24 Rb1. Rxd1+ 25 Rxd1 Qc7
26 Nd3 h6 27 Rc1 Ne7
28 Qb5 Nf5 29 a4 Nd6
30 Qb1 Qa7 31 Ne5

In the time-trouble crisis Kasparov unleashes one of his sudden whiplash attacks.

31 ... Nxa4 32 Rxc8+ Nxc8
33 Qd1?

Wrong since Black could now defend with the brilliant resource 33 ... Nc5 34 Qd8+ Kh7 35 Qxc8 and now the point ... Qa1+ and ... Qxe5. Instead 33 Qb5 Nd6 34 Qc6 keeps up the attack.

33 ... Ne7? 34 Qd8+ Kh7
35 Nxf7 Ng6 36 Qe8 Qe7
37 Qxa4 Qxf7 38 Be4 Kg8
39 Qb5 Nf8 40 Qxb6 Qf6
41 Qb5 Qe7



This adjourned position is destined to become one of the classics, in the same league as the adjourned position from game 34 Alekhine-Capablanca 1927.

42 Kg2 g6 43 Qa5 Qg7
44 Qc5 Qf7 45 h4 h5?

An unpardonable error after adjournment analysis.

46 Qc6 Qe7 47 Bd3 Qf7
48 Qd6 Kg7 49 e4 Kg8
50 Bc4 Kg7 51 Qe5+ Kg8
52 Qd6 Kg7 53 Bb5 Kg8
54 Bc6 Qa7 55 Qb4 Qc7
56 Qb7 Qd8 57 e5!

The winning move. Black is now in total *zugzwang*. Karpov's agony became painfully clear, almost in slow motion as he sat for 45 minutes, desperately thinking of a reply — 45 minutes in which the title ebbed inexorably away from him. If now 57 ... Kh8 58 Qf7 wins, or 57 ... Qd3 58 Be8 Qf5 59 Qf3 forcing the fatal Queen trade. Finally, 57 ... g5 58 hxg Qxg5 59 Be8 Qf5 60 Qf3 with the same effect. Karpov finds the only way to offer (brief) resistance.

57 ... Qa5 58 Be8 Qc5
59 Qf7+ Kh8 60 Ba4 Qd5+
61 Kh2 Qc5 62 Bb3 Qc8
63 Bd1 Qc5 64 Kg2

Black resigned. 64 ... Qc8 65 Bf3 Qc5 66 Be4 Qc8 67 Bxg6? Qc6+ 68 Kh2 Nxg6 69 Qxg6 Qg2+ 70 Kxg2 is stalemate but 67 Kh2! wins easily.

Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

Tips from the top

This year has seen a revival of the "Tips" competition. Sponsored by the Bols Royal Distilleries, it is a concept that has proved popular with bridge journalists and instructive for bridge players generally.

In 1987, seven leading players were invited to provide a tip. In due course an expert panel will judge which tips possess most merit.

My favourite was provided by the mercurial Brazilian master, Gabriel Chagas. His suggestion is: "Watch the small cards, as they sometimes tell you the story of the whole hand."

Chagas provides two examples to illustrate his theme. Here is one in which East must never relax his concentration, if he is to find the winning defence. To test yourself, cover the West and South hands and then follow the play as it unfolds.

Game all. Dealer South.

♠ A J 5
♡ 8 6 5 3
◇ K 5 4 3
♣ A 2

♠ 10 8
♡ 9 7 4
◇ J 9 8
♣ 8 7 6 5 3

N
W E
S

♠ K Q 7 6 4 3
♡ 10
◇ 10 6
♣ K J 10 4

♠ 9 2
♡ A K Q J 2
◇ A Q 7 2
♣ Q 9

W	N	E	S
–	–	–	1♡
No	2NT(1)	3♠	4◇
No	4♠	Dbl	No
No	Rdbl(2)	No	5♡
No	6♡	No	No
No	–	–	–

(1) Showing four-card heart support
(2) Promising first round control in spades

West leads the ♠10 and you win dummy's ♠J with the ♠Q, while South follows with the ♠2. You return the spade King to dummy's Ace, everybody following. Five rounds of trumps force a lot of discards. You give up two spades and the ♣J 10. West follows to three rounds of hearts and then discards two clubs. Dummy parts with a club. Now declarer turns to diamonds, cashing the ◇A Q and ◇K leaving the lead in dummy in this end position:

♠ 5
♡ –
◇ 5
♣ A

♠ –
♡ –
◇ –
♣ 8 7 6

N
W E
S

♠ 7
♡ –
◇ –
♣ K 4

♠ –
♡ –
◇ 2
♣ Q 9

Declarer cashes the ♣A, deceptively playing the ♣Q from his hand. Now comes the ◇5. "You remember," Chagas writes, "that partner followed three times. You give up the ♠7, but unfortunately declarer produces the ◇2 and scores the last trick with the ♠5. You quickly blame the bad light for your slight misplay."

Jeremy Flint

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Protest at the opera

The New Year contains a major anxiety for the Royal Opera House — will its controversial £98 million redevelopment plan get judicial approval? The scheme will be the subject of a High Court hearing in February when Westminster Council, which granted planning permission despite local protests, faces the music.

The Covent Garden Community Association objects to offices and a car park being built on land it claims was designated for the arts, as well as the destruction of nearby listed buildings. The group won the right to a judicial review and is now raising funds for this next stage in the legal battle.

Merry go round

The Merry Widow is going to be adapted so that Franz Lehár's frothy frolic takes place in New Orleans instead of Paris. That's the concept that Cleo Laine and John Dankworth presented to Canadian impresarios Ed and David Mirvish, owners of London's Old Vic.

Their Deep South version, with Cleo playing the widow and musical adaptation by Dankworth, will be seen in Toronto next year and on Broadway in 1989 — it might then arrive in London.

● The Arts Council's search for new premises when the lease expires on 105 Piccadilly has now become so desperate that staff members have been asked to keep an eye on estate agents' windows.

Popular Pete

Lindow Man, alias Pete Marsh, has returned to the British Museum from Manchester. This oldest of ancient Britons is one of the BM's most popular exhibits and a campaign for his restitution to the North (he was found in a peat bog in Cheshire) has had no more success than Melina Mercouri's claim on the Elgin Marbles.

● After celebrating both Christmas Day and his 80th birthday yesterday, veteran actor Andrew Cruickshank is back on the West End stage today as the judge in *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*.

Lynda Murdin

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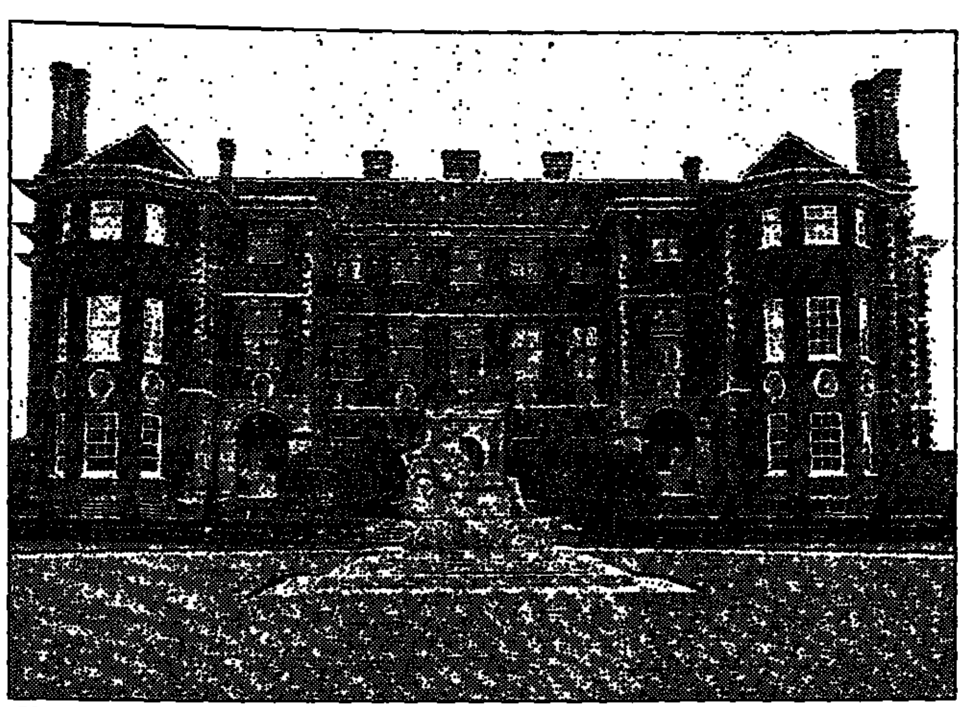
OUT AND ABOUT

A sleeping beauty

Nigel Andrew falls under the spell of Ham House and its two creators



Simply sumptuous: Ham House and (below) an ornate corner of the Green Closet inside

Here is a place of rare magic. Ham House casts a spell which few could fail to respond to. It is the most complete and perfect 17th-century survival of its kind; but more than that, it still bears the stamp of the two extraordinary personalities who made it what it is.

You can see their double portrait – "both Ye Graces in one picture", as the inventory puts it – in the round gallery above the entrance hall. Even as rendered by Lely, the Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale look the last couple you would ever invite to a dinner party.

Contemporary opinion seems to support this impression: he, Charles II's Scottish Secretary and a powerful figure in the group of government ministers who formed the CABAL (Clifford, Ashley, Buckingham, Arlington and Lauderdale) "made but an ill appearance . . . his whole manner rough and boisterous, and very unfit for a Court . . . He was the coldest friend and most violent enemy that ever was known".

As for his lady, Elizabeth Murray, in her own right Countess of Dysart, "she was restless in her ambition, profuse in her expense, and of a most ravenous covetousness . . . violent in everything – a violent friend, and a much more violent enemy". And so on.

Looking at that double portrait, all this seems quite credible. And we can observe Elizabeth's progress in a fine succession of portraits – from a young and accomplished beauty just setting out in life, to the clearly dominant partner in her first marriage (to Sir Lyonel Tollemache) and then gradually to the imperious, blowzy chatelaine of Ham House.

It is all but miraculous that this lavishly furnished building should have survived so little altered from the time of the Lauderdales – with furniture, paintings, decorations, even such perishables as fabrics and wall-hangings largely intact and in accordance with the 17th-century inventories.

This was partly the result of the financial caution of Elizabeth's Tollemache heirs in the 18th century, later developing into a fixed determination to keep things as they were. By the turn of this century, Ham was already becoming famous as the "Sleeping Beauty house" where time had stood still.

Now it is in the care of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Trust, it still has that enchanted quality. What is most magical, perhaps, is that such a couple of out-and-outers as the Lauderdales should have left behind them an atmosphere of such charm, such warmth and such abundant delight to the senses. Visiting this house is direct, unalloyed pleasure. Sumptuous is the word, but one is never overwhelmed with grandeur here, where everything – almost – is on a human scale.

Because the Lauderdales lived in a very high style indeed, and had half a dozen other homes to maintain, they never found quite enough money to convert Ham House, unfashionably Jacobean, into the modish pleasure-palace of Elizabeth's dreams. The rooms were brought up to scratch, a suite of personal apartments was added, and much time and money lavished on creating chic and luxurious interiors.

But the house remained stubbornly Jacobean and H-shaped, and you still enter straight into the Great Hall – though the floor is of marble, and the walls are lined with grand portraits, and the Lauderdales greet you in the guise of statues of Mars and Minerva.

Outside as well as in, the house is steeped in 17th-century atmosphere. The restored formal gardens are now looking much as they would have done in their heyday, with geometric lawns and beds, hornbeam avenues and tight little hedges. Grounds and house are arranged around a north-south axis which passes right through the middle of the Queen's bedchamber (prepared for Catherine of Braganza), and to the south formed a ceremonial route to Ham Common. Following it today to that picturesque green, you can reward yourself with a drink at the New Inn.

The other way from Ham House lies Petersham, traffic-choked but full of stunningly good houses, and with an interesting church, chock-a-block with its original box-pews and galleries. This is a survival from the days when, at weekends with the CABAL in session, "all England was ruled from Petersham". But at Ham House the Lauderdales had a private chapel, regarded by their enemies as suspiciously small and plain. Here the altar still sports its original hangings, a survival which even the V&A describe as "of the utmost rarity". A phrase which aptly sums up the whole delightful experience of visiting Ham House.

Ham House, Ham, Petersham, Surrey, will be open from Tuesday to Thursday next week, and from Saturday January 2 will be open daily except Mondays, 11am-5pm. Tel 01-940 1950. Admission £1.80, child/OAP 90p.

OUTINGS

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS: Family day at the Natural History Museum and Geological Museum with demonstrations, quizzes, trails, prizes, Father Christmas.
Natural History and Geological Museums, South Kensington, London SW7 (01-589 6323). Tomorrow 1pm-6pm. Combined entrance to both museums: adult £2, child 5-15 £1, under five free. 10 per cent discount in the museum shops.

MINCE PIE SPECIALS: Steam train rides with free mince pies served during the journey plus other Christmas jollities. "Watercress Line", Mid-Hants Railway, Arlesford Station, Arlesford, Hampshire (096273 4200). Tomorrow, Monday. Trains from Arlesford every hour 11.37am-2.37pm; from Alton 11.50am-2.50pm. Return tickets: adult £3.80, child £1.90.

BOXING DAY PILGRIMAGE TO FOUNTAINS ABBEY: Annual four-mile walk through the Yorkshire countryside from Ripon Cathedral to Fountains Abbey. Depart Ripon Cathedral 11am. Pilgrimage can be joined at Studeley Gates at 12.30pm. Arrive abbey 1pm for short service followed by refreshments. All welcome.

CIRCUS SENSE: Lively, colourful show with displays of many traditional circus skills and characters but no live animals.
Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street, London E8. Box Office (01-985 2424 and 986-9666). Today until Dec 31, Jan 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, at 2.30pm. Also 5.30pm January 5-9, 12-16. Adult £4, child £3. Family ticket (2 plus 2) £12.

MECCANO SHOW: For all enthusiasts, elaborate working models on display until early January.
London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-379 6344). Tomorrow until January 3, daily 11am-5pm. Adult £2.40, child £1. Family ticket 2 plus 2 £5.50.

MUSIC HALL PERFORMANCE: To coincide with the Edwardian Era exhibition, last performance by the British Music Hall Society. Ideal way of introducing older children to this once universally popular entertainment, currently undergoing a revival.
Barbican Terrace Foyer, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 4141). Tomorrow, 5.30pm. Free.

CHILDREN'S CINEMA: The Wizard of Oz will be shown at the Barbican Children's Cinema, Barbican Centre, London EC2 at 2.30pm today. For members only, £1.50 (annual membership £2). Adults, who must be accompanied by child member, £2. Box office: 01-638 8891/628 8795.

MONSIEUR OFFENBACH'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: Fully costumed excerpts from Offenbach favourites.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1. Box Office 01-928 3131. Today until Jan 3, daily 7.45pm. Matinee tomorrow and next Sunday 3pm. Tickets £5-£12.50.

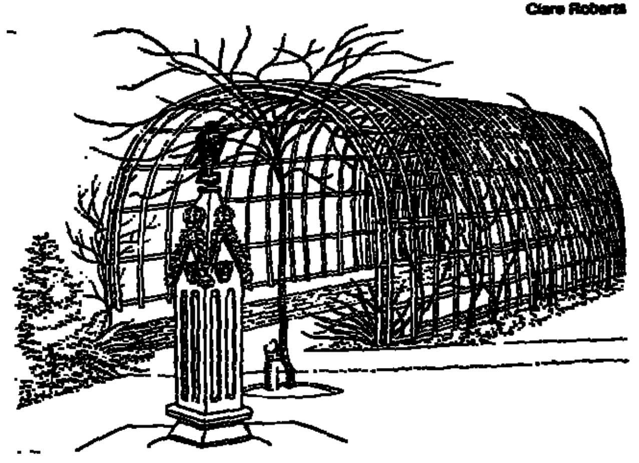
Judy Froshaug

IN THE GARDEN

Green and pleasant county schemes

Councils are setting up educational charities to help garden owners, public and private. Francesca Greenoak reports

Clare Roberts



Queen Eleanor's "medieval" Garden at Winchester Castle

The most interesting development to come out of the booming public interest in gardens are the County Garden Trusts. Avon, Wiltshire and Sussex are up and running. Devon, Kent and Norfolk are established and making progress, and several other counties are expressing interest. Hampshire Garden Trust, founded in 1984, has been the most active so far with several projects already completed and others well under way.

Founded as educational charities, the trusts work closely with county authorities, using private and public funding to help preserve and re-create gardens. They enable private and public owners to get professional advice on their gardens, and put them in touch with grant aiding organizations. The trusts also encourage appreciation of gardens among the young – a beautiful knot garden was entirely designed, made and maintained by young children in the village primary school at Awbridge.

Hampshire is involved with an ambitious scheme to restore the remarkable Italianate garden at Tylney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick. At another hotel garden, Rhinefield House in the New Forest, the formal canals have been restored to their original elegance and 2,500 yews planted for hedging and topiary.

One of the most notable achievements is at Winchester Castle, where a reconstruction of a medieval garden now occupies a small area previously used as a rubbish dump. Into this awkward wedge of land abbuting the Great Hall of the castle, Dr Sylvia Lansberg has designed Queen Eleanor's Garden, a medieval garden of enormous charm and variety which can be seen by any visitor who cares to push open the huge old door in far side of the Great Hall.

It is a wonder that so many features can fit snugly together in this small spot. The castle door gives out on to a small courtyard, dominated by a fountain with falcon and leopard's head reproduced from a 13th-century description. Narrow paths lead through a medieval tunnel arbour, made of coppice poles tied with willow cords, up which vines and old roses grow, and around to a secret garden within a garden: "the queen's herber", a trellised bower where the ground is carpeted with camomile, a living facsimile of the ones in medieval pictures.

The plants are all kinds grown in medieval times. The garden makes a fresh appeal to the modern eye, with its intricate structures and simple but strong planting of native species and herbs from southern Europe: madonna lilies, lavender, sneezewort, thyme valerian and violets. An interesting idea is to grow hyssop to form a neat low aromatic hedge; plants are quite expensive, so buy a few and take basal cuttings in April-May, or sow seed in a cold frame in March.

Queen Eleanor's garden contains several unusual plants such as vervain (holy herb) and orris *Iris florentina* whose roots are used to perfume and preserve pot pourri, and which has small beautiful greyish flowers. Both these require a sunny position to thrive, while a native iris, the evergreen gladdon, rejoices in shade and its dark spears passing unnoticed in the summer make a good winter mainstay.

Many medieval garden plants (such as greater celandine, cornflowers, soapwort, St John's wort and germander speedwell), subsequently banished as weeds, are now finding favour again.

Do not overlook the grassy places in Queen Eleanor's garden. In emulation of the "flowery mead", members of the Hampshire Garden Trust "embroidered" the lawns with low-growing flowering herbs such as bird's-foot trefoil, bugle, cinquefoil, celandine and daisy, harebells, and dainty lady's bedstraw, the native purple selfheal, yarrow and plantain.

This is a period garden conceived to the highest academic standards which recaptures old skills in its making. It is also a public garden of enchantment and a tribute to Hampshire County Council. Let us hope that before very long, similarly ambitious enterprises will be under way in every county in Britain.

WEEKEND TIPS

- **Check supports and ties of trees and climbing plants making sure they are firm but not constricting.**
- **New growth on bush roses may be blown about by winter winds, so give support or cut back.**
- **On a day when the lawn is not frosty or sodden give it a light raking to take off the last leaves and disperse worm casts.**
- **Check that fruit store temperatures are above freezing point and remove to use now any fruit which shows signs of deterioration.**
- **Put out nut cages and other foods for the birds (who will pick off overwintering garden pests).**

GARDEN NEWS

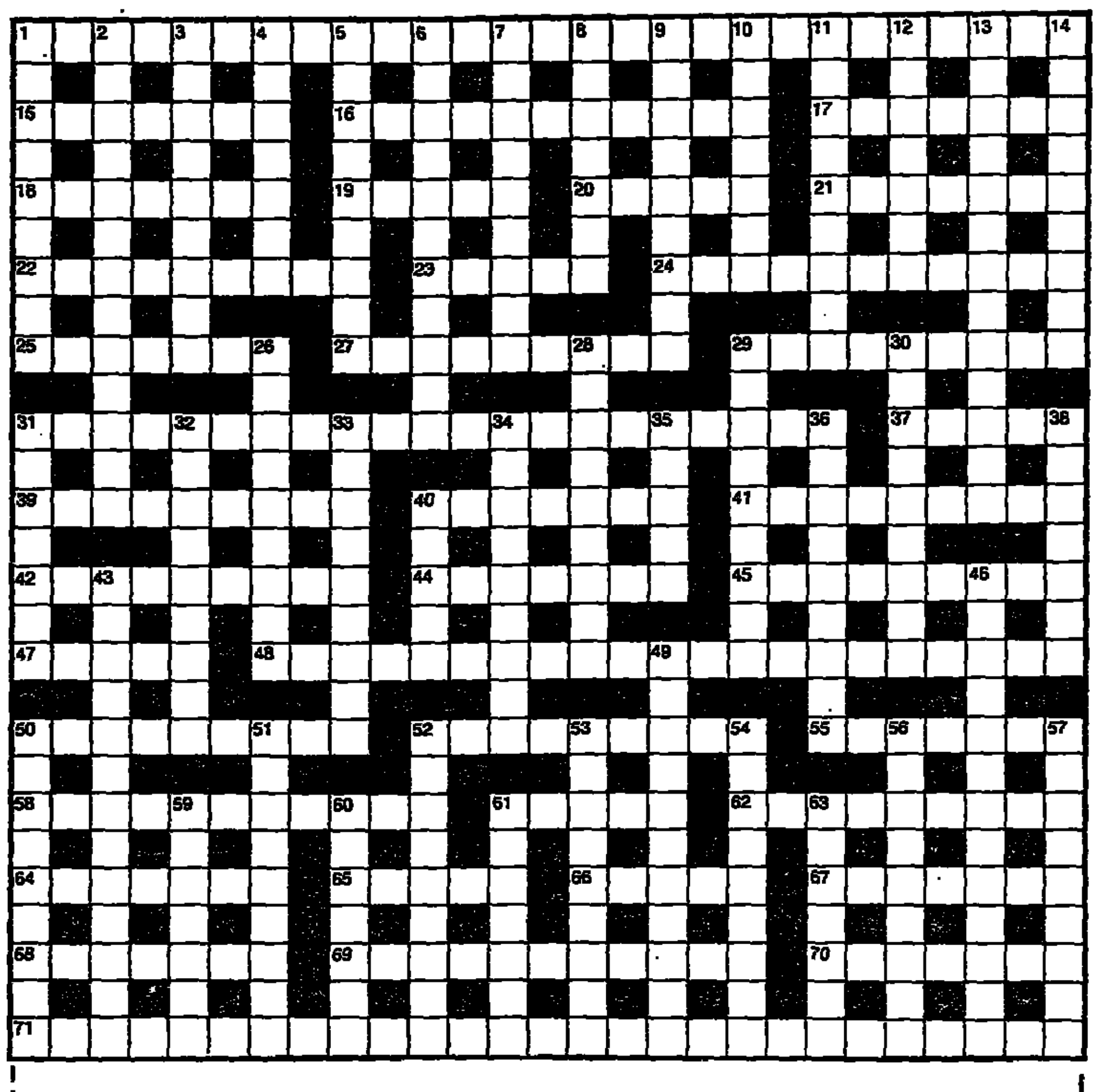
I love the way garden tools are worn to your use over the years so I wasn't especially eager to try out a new-fashioned implement, the Multi-hoe, though it is most intriguing in appearance, like a small ploughshare. In practice, however, it turns out to be a most efficient tool and one I shall probably reach for more often as my creaking back stiffens over the years to come. Designed for gardeners who have difficulty bending, it can be used to make a furrow and push the soil back, to do edging, weeding, even sowing seed or planting. The price is £11.95 plus p&p from Multi-Purpose Garden Tools, Unit IX, Dolphin Square, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9AL, tel 0526 833213.

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

ACROSS
1 Maximum growth in housing reported by Fields (7,10,2,3,5)
15 Oxfordshire town appears to lack antiquity (7)
16 Connecting band or network going round North America (11)
17 May for instance repulse mob without loss (7)
18 Boy eats rodent – quite irregular! (7)
19 "Live the — with the other half" Hamlet urged his mother (5)
20 Looking bruised and furious (5)
21 Of which one rat's terribly guity (7)
22 First person said to be touched by Midas making a duck (6-3)
23 Game has no opening here in Ireland (5)
24 Battle in which taciturn type has a very enthusiastic reception (11)
25 Stops changing sides on both sides of the street (7)
27 First occasion when commercial costs soar (5,4)
29 Payment by results on this new tea recipe (5,4)
31 The inner power of the sausage (6,6,2,7)
37 Number one team rejected this fiery revolutionary (5)
39 The donkey in Endless Street shows some growth (5-4)
40 After the start of this month Pickwick's man becomes a resident (7)
41 Felix needs something invigorating when in a state of stupor (9)
42 Mid-May ice must be broken up – stressed by "Urgent" tags (9)
44 Fifty-fifty and above could be most attractive (7)
45 River wine consumed – a sovereign (9)
47 Got to hold back editor's material for insertion (5)
48 Potter's man might welcome Dr Foster as a "suitable" customer? (3,6,2,10)
50 Liable to get soaked through explosion of a blue star (9)
52 Uses again perhaps mere tactical tricks (2-7)
55 Seaweed, a sign of the Zodiac? It's a Chinese puzzle (7)
58 Bring into the common market, i.e. a super one transformed (11)
61 Topping decoration – in France it's about right (5)
62 Bentley's arts were about maps and chaps – or this one about mountains? (9)
64 For Hamlet's players "Seneca cannot be too heavy, nor — too light" (7)
65 Writing for opening of concerts (5)
66 Four landed in the drink, but still with us (5)
67 Trudge around to various parties (7)
68 Egypt's viceroy – after work he dives in here (7)
69 A tie perhaps round the throat includes one as uniform ornamentation (11)
70 Chemical agent I'd discovered in no tax fiddle (7)
71 A time of world-wide victories (8,7,3,5-4)

DOWN
1 Wood urged to bandy the other word (3-6)
2 Do his armies go with lines in disarray? (13)
3 Compels payment of about three quarters, with precision (9)
4 Well content according to the dormouse (7)
5 Repository for wrecked car (rear end missing) perhaps (5-4)
6 Enemy alien under restraint holds captor's head in such deadly strife (11)
7 Blissful state of Gray's young Etonians (9)
8 Equipment's seen at Twickenham (7)
9 Make light of a son of Leah coming in late (9)
10 No nuts, I see – sounds like the bedouins (7)
11 Get used to the dress you took in, say? (9)
12 Plea of love-hungry lass to gunner in the rocket range (7)
13 Bringing round a special mention in support of various users (13)
14 Come in and convert to prevailing type of power (9)
26 Whispering that misrepresents a USSR turn (9)
28 Is everyone round the drinks counter in line showing equal pressure change? (9)
29 Main source of interest (9)
30 One must be, to have this (9)
31 Improvement metered by TV psephologists (7)
32 Editor sees me finally surmounting an eminence (9)
33 Eyelet can perhaps prove of use to welders (9)
34 One way to pay too much insurance? (4-5)
35 Jane catches one in place of an eagle (5)
36 Worker, I hope, opposed to cartels and monopolies (4-5)
38 National Union leaders manifest such energy (7)
40 Describes a wing of the Spanish army (5)
43 Trained men are reorganised in the main (13)
46 "Cannibals that each other eat, The —" (Othello) (13)
49 Like an Arctic explorer given a nip by Jack? (5-6)
50 Fabulous lupine disguise (9)
51 Topless garb? Quite the reverse (9)
52 Poor gardener with love in his heart for a music-maker (4-5)
53 Quiet cleric was poorly but came out on top (9)
54 Completely unable to make out notes, over four of them (5-4)
56 Standard Italy converted to usual state of affairs (9)
57 Perhaps 'e let out a cockchafer (3-6)
59 A piece for three players in part of The Country-lover (7)
60 Call in question a beauty's self-description (7)
61 Dismiss from service the wicked grocer's "lady in a cage"? (7)
63 Alfresco, but not in the raised area (7)

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, January 11. Entries should be sent to The Times Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, January 16.



Name ....

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SOLUTION TO NO 1443
(last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Bushel 4 Prance 7 Tack 8 Crucifer 9 Haute couture 15 Enigma 16 Scuffs 17 Hatton Garden 23 Aflutter 24 Wimp 25 Blotch 26 Wangle

DOWN: 1 Bute 2 Socialist 3 Lucre 4 Pluto 5 Adult 6 Cheer 10 Tempo 11 Ulcer 12 Unfeeling 13 Ease 14 Mesh 18 Awful 19 Taunt 20 Notch 21 Arrow 22 Epee

The winners of prize concise No 1443 are: Mrs B.J. Bassett, Orchard Avenue, Chichester, West Sussex; and P.D. McDonald, Lilac Grove, Dunfermline.

Concise Jumbo Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday.

ACROSS
1 Early One Morning song last line (3,5,3,3,1,4,6,2)
15 Revolving fish lure (7)
16 Oversee (11)
17 Liquorice sweet (7)
18 White clown (7)
19 Toytown lamb (5)
20 Likeness (5)
21 Long, short poetry foot (7)
22 Platonic solids (9)
23 Displease (5)
24 Adopts resolute position (5,1,5)
25 Bottle plug (7)
27 Ornately detailed (9)
29 General sedative (9)
31 Magic Flute composer (8,7,6)
37 Previous (5)
39 Aim to complete group (2,3,1,3)
40 Went in (7)
41 Loved woman (9)
42 Disapprove of (3,6)
44 Airflow fitting (7)
45 Writing sheet (9)
47 Refute (5)
48 BCG (7,8,6)
50 Not resilient (9)
52 Peke, chihuahua etc (6,3)
55 Signatories (7)
58 Blood poisoning (11)
61 Kingly (5)
62 Blend into fluid (9)
64 Chuckle (7)
65 C American Indian (5)
66 1.000 kg (5)
67 Choose to refrain (7)
68 Without rule violations (2,5)
69 Excessively presumptuous (11)
70 First line refrain poem (7)
71 Bishop Heber Trinity Sunday hymn (4,4,4,4,3,8)

DOWN
1 Watering tubes (9)
2 Put middle C on 3rd line (5,4,4)
3 Right of possession (9)
4 With one large and several smaller lobes (7)
5 Polite affirmative (3,6)
6 Ottawa River/Great Lakes region (5.6)
7 Wander over (5,4)
8 Life periodic payment (7)
9 Single conflict (3.6)
10 Poor US white worker (7)
11 Stimulating foretaste (9)
12 Blue-black plums (7)
13 Raleigh state (5,8)
14 At the brink (2,3,4)
26 Offers to bear child (5.4)
28 World's largest island (9)
29 Triangular kernel (6,3)
30 Extempore (9)
31 Cart driver (7)
32 Rabelais gigantic king (9)
33 With anthrax (9)
34 Outgoing type (9)
35 Of greater age (5)
36 Treasonous woman (9)
38 Street race (4,3)
40 Artist's stand (5)
43 Cook's half fluid ounce (13)
46 Algoa Bay resort (4,9)
49 Casting malicious slurs (11)
50 "It's an easy task" (3,1,5)
51 Crossing (9)
52 Inefficient airtight fastener (5,4)
53 5.8784 x 10^{12} miles (5,4)
54 Long term minimum risk (4,5)
56 Rapid piano notes series (9)
57 Harsh responsibility (5,4)
59 Verily (2,5)
60 Huge (7)
61 Recommencement (7)
63 Argument (7)

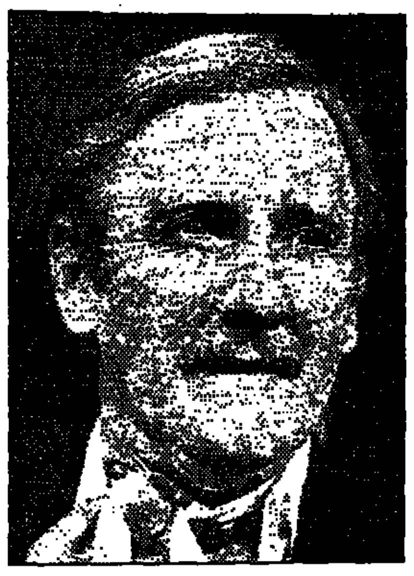
SOLUTION TO NO 1447
(Thursday's concise)

ACROSS: 1 Slap-up 4 Actual 7 Doha 8 Ethiopia 9 Entrepreneur 15 Steamy 16 Dulcet 17 Somnambulism 23 Timbered 24 Pill 25 Ampere 26 Embers

DOWN: 1 Suds 2 Athenaeum 3 Piece 4 Abhor 5 Thorn 6 Adieu 10 Rumba 11 Equal 12 Excessive 13 Rote 14 Isis 18 Opium 19 Noble 20 Merge 21 Undue 22 Plus

NEW YEAR TELEVISION AND RADIO

By Peter Waymark



RADIO

SCRATCH AN ACTOR: Leslie Phillips, the polished star of many a comedy show, plays the title role in a new one, *Starring Leslie Willey*. Charting the misadventures of an actor (Phillips) and his agent (Eric Sykes), the six-part series was written by Ray Cooney and John Graham and is a Theatre of Comedy production recorded at the Shaftesbury Theatre. Also in the cast are Angela Douglas, Moira Lister and Patricia Brake. It starts on Radio 4, Tuesday, 12.25-12.55pm, then continues daily at the same time.

FILMS ON TV

QUEEN GARBO: Greta Garbo in the title role of *Queen Christina*, the 17th century Swedish monarch who dresses up in men's clothes and renounces her throne for the love of Spanish nobleman John Gilbert. Directed in 1933 by the stylish Rouben Mamoulian (who died this month at 89), the film makes no pretence to historical accuracy. But it is spendid to look at and provided the enigmatic Garbo with one of her best star vehicles. Launching a Garbo season, it is showing on BBC2, today, 11.45pm-1.25am.

FILMS ON TV

DOCTOR'S TONIC: Haing S. Ngor became an unlikely film star when he played the Cambodian helper of American journalist, Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterston) in *The Killing Fields* and won the Oscar for best supporting actor. Ngor was a doctor who had not acted before when he was offered the role by the producer David Puttnam. Made in 1984, and now coming to television for the first time, *The Killing Fields* is a study of friendship of two men set against the background of war. BBC2, Wednesday, 9-11.15pm.

TV BIOGRAPHY

JUMP CUTS: Thomas "Fats" Waller died at the early age of 39 but not before he had stamped his larger than life personality on the popular music of his era, both with his own compositions, like "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Honeysuckle Rose", and through highly individual renderings of songs by other writers. Howard Johnson's documentary, *Thomas "Fats" Waller: This Joint is Jumpin'*, includes an interview with Waller's son, Maurice, and footage of Waller and his band from early pop promos. Channel 4, Monday, 10-11pm.

TV NOSTALGIA

SHOW TIME: Lord Lew Grade made his name as the flamboyant head of the commercial television company, ATV, declaring: "I know what the public want because I am one of them". What the public got was *Sunday Night at the London Palladium, Danger Man, The Saint* and *The Muppet Show*. Channel 4 (soon to be run by Grade's nephew, Michael) salutes ATV with an evening of its famous shows (Wednesday, 8.30pm-12.05am) and profiles the company in *Just a Song and Dance Story* (Tuesday, 8.30-9.30pm).

TV PLAY

DEEP WATER: Marion Bailey as the vicious wife who takes a riverboat holiday in Alan Ayckbourn's black comedy, *Way Upstream*. Also on board are her husband (Barrie Rutter) and two friends (Nick Dunning and Joanne Pearce). Stuart Wilson is the unexpected guest who hitches a lift. When the play was staged at the National Theatre, the water tank burst. This television production by Terry Johnson (whose *Insignificance* was filmed by Nicolas Roeg) sensibly uses a real river. BBC1, New Year's Day, 10-11.40pm.

A multitude of movies

From *Ghostbusters* to *Star Wars*, from *Flashdance* to *Broadway Danny Rose*, there is a film on television for everyone this week. The ratings system is:
● ● ● not to be missed ● ● highly recommended
● well worth watching

TODAY

THE BIG STORE (1941): The Marx Brothers, past their best but still capable of inspired moments, as detectives in a department store. Channel 4, 9.25-11am.

● **THE GREAT ESCAPE** (1962): POW blockbuster which contains Steve McQueen's famous motor cycle battle against the barbed wire. BBC1, 1.35-4.20pm.

SCROOGE (1970): The cast — Albert Finney, Alec Guinness, Edith Evans — is stronger than the material in this musical version of *A Christmas Carol*. ITV, 2.30-4.35pm.

● **OLIVER!** (1968): Lionel Bart's jolly Dickens musical won an Oscar for the veteran director, Carol Reed. Mark Lester makes a fetching Oliver. BBC2, 5.20-7.40pm.

● **GHOSTBUSTERS** (1984): Sigourney Weaver has poltergeists in her kitchen and calls in Dan Ackroyd and friends to exorcise them. Overrated horror spoof. ITV, 7.30-9.30pm.

EVIL UNDER THE SUN (1982): Peter Ustinov, as Hercule Poirot, solving the murder of a film star in the Adriatic. Star cast, handsome locations and tangled plotting. BBC1, 10-11.55pm. *British television première.*

● ● ● **QUEEN CHRISTINA** (1933). See top of page.

THE TINGLER (1959): Vincent Price in low budget horror nonsense which can be enjoyed for its badness. Channel 4, 1.25-3am.

● ● ● **DEAD OF NIGHT** (1945): Ealing's brilliant compendium of ghost stories, including the haunted mirror sequence directed by Robert Hamer and Michael Redgrave as a demented ventriloquist. BBC1, 12.30-2.10am.

TOMORROW

THE INTELLIGENCE MEN (1965): Morecambe and Wise ill at ease in a spy caper which misuses their talents. BBC1, 10.55am-12.35pm.

ARABIAN ADVENTURE (1979): Competently mounted fantasy featuring magic carpets, monsters and Christopher Lee as an evil caliph. BBC2, 11.25am-1pm.

ESCAPE TO VICTORY (1981): John Huston's variation on the World War 11 escape yarn as Allied footballers take on the Germans. BBC1, 3.30-5.20pm.

BUSH CHRISTMAS (1983): Pleasant Australian film about three children on the trail of horse thieves. BBC2, 5.45-7.15pm. *British television première.*

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE (1968): Maggie Smith in her Oscar winning performance as an unconventional Edinburgh schoolmistress in the 1930s. Channel 4, 10pm-12.10am.

STILL OF THE NIGHT (1982): Meryl Streep and Roy Scheider in a devious psychiatric thriller which tries to take on Hitchcock and fails. BBC2, 10.25-11.55pm. *British television première.*

● ● ● **THE MALTESE FALCON** (1941): Bogart, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre and the outsize Sidney Greenstreet in one of the great movie thrillers. BBC1, 11.20pm-1am.

● ● **NINOTCHKA** (1939): "Garbo laughs" ran the MGM publicity for the star's rare excursion into comedy. She is a Russian falling for playboy Melvyn Douglas. BBC2, 11.55pm-1.45am.

HOLIDAY MONDAY

● **LAUREL AND HARDY'S LAUGHING 20s** (1965): Excerpts from the pair's silent two-reelers. BBC2, 9-10.25am.

● **LASSIE COME HOME** (1943): First and best of the doggy series, featuring the 11-year-old Elizabeth Taylor BBC2, 10.25-11.50pm.

THE SPACEMAN AND KING ARTHUR (1979): Disney yarn about astronauts time-travelling back to Camelot. ITV, 10.45am-12.30pm.

● **THE GOOD COMPANIONS** (1932): Spirited version of J. B. Priestley's novel about a travelling pierrot troupe. With Jessie Matthews, John Gielgud and Max Miller. BBC2, 12.30am-2.20pm. *British television première.*

THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER (1982): Spectacularly photographed Australian story about an orphan boy's obsession with wild horses. BBC1, 2.20-4pm. *British television première*

STAR! (1968): Julie Andrews in a decorative but overlong tribute to the musical comedy star, Gertrude Lawrence. Channel 4, 2.40-5.55pm.

HOOPER (1978): Burt Reynolds as an ageing stunt man planning one last throw. Boisterous all-action comedy. BBC1, 5.20-7pm.

NATIONAL VELVET (1944): Elizabeth Taylor as the girl who wins a horse in a raffle and trains it for the Grand National. BBC2, 7-9pm.

NO SEX PLEASE — WE'RE BRITISH (1973): Ronnie Corbett and a cast of comedy stalwarts in the film of the long-running stage farce. ITV, 8-9.45pm.

GREYSTOKE — THE LEGEND OF TARZAN, LORD OF THE APES (1984): Visually spectacular, dramatically muddled account of Tarzan's early years from Hugh Hudson. BBC1, 8.30-10.40pm. *British television première.*

TWILIGHT ZONE: THE MOVIE (1983): Stories of the supernatural, based on the TV series. Directors include Steven Spielberg but the results are patchy. ITV, 10-11.50pm.

● ● **BROADWAY DANNY ROSE** (1984): Woody Allen, as a theatrical agent with unemployable clients, falls foul of the Mafia. Nice support from Mia Farrow, hidden behind dark glasses. BBC2, 10.40pm-midnight. *British television première.*

● ● ● **TWELVE ANGRY MEN** (1957): Henry Fonda leads the as the one juror who is convinced of an accused murderer's innocence. Immaculately played and consistently absorbing. BBC1, 11.45pm-1.20am.

● ● **CAMILLE** (1936): Greta Garbo suffering stylishly as the doomed courtesan in love with Robert Taylor. BBC2, noon, 1.45am.

TUESDAY

INVITATION TO THE WEDDING (1983): Ralph Richardson as an eccentric bishop steals this romantic comedy about a young couple who get married by mistake. Channel 4, 9.25-11.05am. *British television première.*

STAGECOACH (1966): Disastrous re-make of the great John Ford Western. ITV, 1-3pm.

CAPTAIN NEMO AND THE UNDERWATER CITY (1969): More adventures beneath the sea for Jules Verne's Victorian hero. Robert Ryan lifts a stodgy script. BBC1, 1.50-3.35pm.

● **FLYING DOWN TO RIO** (1933): RKO musical notable for the first teaming of Fred and Ginger and a marvellous finale in which girls dance on aeroplane wings. BBC2, 3.50-5.15pm.

THE SILENT ONE (1984): Family film, with pretty Pacific island locations, about a mute boy who strikes up a friendship with a giant turtle. BBC2, 6-7.35pm. *British television première.*

CARRY ON CAMPING (1969): Remembered as the one in which Barbara Windsor finally bursts out of her bra. ITV, 6.25-8pm.

UNDER THE RAINBOW (1981): Frenetic comedy which imagines what was happening in Hollywood in 1938 during the making of *The Wizard of Oz*. Channel 4, 10-11.50pm. *British television première.*

SHOOT THE MOON (1982): Overheated drama from Alan Parker about marital strife in California. Diane Keaton and Albert Finney as the couple. BBC2, 10pm-midnight. *British television première*

● ● ● **Janet Leigh takes her fateful shower in Alfred Hitchcock's bold and brilliant *Psycho*. The scene is one of the most horrific in the cinema, yet the effect is conveyed almost entirely by suggestion: a knife, a scream, a trickle of blood. Lasting only 45 seconds on the screen, it took seven days to shoot. Hitchcock claimed not to take *Psycho* seriously, but it remains a masterpiece of audience manipulation. ITV, 11pm-1am.**

● **SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS** (1961): Warren Beatty (in his film debut) and Natalie Wood in a story of adolescent love in Kansas in the 1920s. BBCl, 11.35pm-1.35am.

● **ANNA KARENINA** (1935): Greta Garbo leaves her aristocratic husband (Basil Rathbone) for Fredric March's cavalry officer in a filleted though stylish version of the Tolstoy novel. BBC2, midnight-1.30am.

● **ROAD TO UTOPIA** (1945): Hope, Crosby and Dorothy Lamour go gold prospecting. Channel 4, 9.25-11.05am.

HAMBONE AND HILLIE (1984): The sentimental story of a lost mongrel dog reunited with his elderly mistress (Lillian Gish). BBC2, noon-1.25pm.

HANNIBAL BROOKS (1968): Oliver Reed as a prisoner of war escaping over the Alps with an elephant. Script by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais. BBC1, 1.50-3.30pm.

● ● **THE GAY DIVORCEE** (1934): Madcap Astaire-Rogers musical with more emphasis on comedy than dance, though "The Continental" makes a smashing finale. BBC2, 3.45-5.30pm.

SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT 3 (1983): More mindless car chases in a series outstaying its welcome. ITV, 8-9.35pm.

● ● **THE KILLING FIELDS** (1984): See top of page).

● ● **ON THE WATERFRONT** (1954): Budd Schulberg's potent story of labour racketeering in the New York docks, with gritty location photography and a feast of method acting from Marlon Brando and Rod Steiger. BBC1, 11.30pm-1.15am.

MARIE WALEWSKA (1938): Napoleon's affair with a Polish countess given the star treatment by Charles Boyer and Greta Garbo. BBC2, 11.45pm-1.35am.

NEW YEARS EVE

● **ROAD TO ZANZIBAR** (1941): More vintage gagging from Hope and Crosby, this time on safari in Africa. Channel 4, 9.25-11.05am.

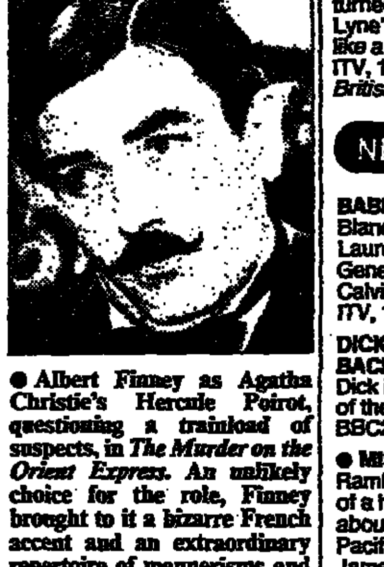
AN ELEPHANT CALLED SLOWLY (1969): A return to the *Born Free* formula as Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna meet more animals in Kenya. 11.30am-1pm.

● **AIRPORT** (1969): Burt Lancaster is trying to run an airport but it's snowing and a mad bomber is threatening to blow up a plane. Adroitly made all-star disaster movie. ITV, 1-3.25pm.

● **BEN HUR** (1959): Solid Biblical epic with Charlton Heston as the prince of Judah fighting Roman tyranny. Comes to life with the spectacular chariot race. BBC2, 1.40-5.05pm.

THE CHAMP (1979): Franco Zeffirelli's re-make of the old weepie about a young son's faith in a washed-up boxer. With Ricky Schroeder as the boy and Jon Voight. BBC1, 1.50-3.50pm.

WATERSHIP DOWN (1978): Unexceptional cartoon of Richard Adams's novel about the rabbit world with John Hurt and Richard Briers leading a cast of familiar voices. BBC2, 5.35-7.05pm.



● **Albert Finney as Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot, questioning a trainload of suspects, in *The Murder on the Orient Express*. An unlikely choice for the role, Finney brought to it a bizarre French accent and an extraordinary repertoire of mannerisms and he steals scene after scene from the distinguished cast. Though consisting mostly of talk, and virtually confined to a single set, the film grips all the way. BBC1, 1.40-5.05pm.**

HIGH SOCIETY (1956): Musical re-make of *The Philadelphia Story* redeemed by Cole Porter songs and engaging stars (Crosby, Sinatra, Grace Kelly and Louis Armstrong). BBC1, 12.10-2am.

● **THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN** (1957): Jack Arnold's ingenious piece of sci-fi, a triumph of talent over a small budget. Channel 4, 12.15-1.45am.

FLASHDANCE (1983): Jennifer Beals as the steel worker turned disco dancer in Adrian Lyne's frenetic film, directed like a rock video. ITV, 12.15-2am. *British television première.*

NEW YEARS DAY

BABES IN TOYLAND (1961): Bland Disney re-make of a Laurel and Hardy vehicle with Gene Sheldon and Henry Calvin playing Stan and Ollie. ITV, 10.30am-12.30pm.

DICK BARTON STRIKES BACK (1949): Don Stannard as Dick in low-budget adventures of the radio detective. BBC2, 9.05-10.15am.

● **MISTER ROBERTS** (1955): Rambling, boisterous version of a hit Broadway comedy about a cargo ship in the Pacific. With Henry Fonda, James Cagney and William Powell. BBC2, 2.50-4.45pm.

● **SUPERMAN II** (1980): The second and best of the Superman series, thanks to the wit and invention of director Dick Lester. Christopher Reeve as the comic book hero. ITV, 4-6.10pm.

● ● **STAR WARS** (1977): Potent mixture of comic strip heroics and dazzling hardware with Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher. ITV, 6.45-9pm.

SOMEWHERE IN TIME (1980): Christopher Reeve shedding his Superman gear for a time-warp weepie about a playwright who falls in love with a girl's portrait. Channel 4, 7-9pm.

THE BOUNTY (1984): Worthy third screen version of the 18th century naval mutiny. With Mel Gibson as Fletcher Christian and Anthony Hopkins trying to prove that Bligh was not all villain. BBC2, 7.35-9.45pm. *British television première.*

THE FLAMINGO KID (1984): Matt Dillon as an 18-year-old coming of age in a rich Long Island beach club. BBC2, 9.45-11.25pm. *British television première.*

● ● **THE QUIET MAN** (1952): Blarney all the way in John Ford's roistering comedy about John Wayne returning to his Irish roots and finding romance with Maureen O'Hara. BBC1, 11.40pm-1.45am.

● **ONE DEADLY SUMMER** (1983): Isabelle Adjani as a young woman plotting to avenge the rape of her mother in Jean Becker's absorbing thriller set in a Provençal village in the 1930s. BBC2, 11.25pm-1.35am. *British television première.*

WORD-WATCHING

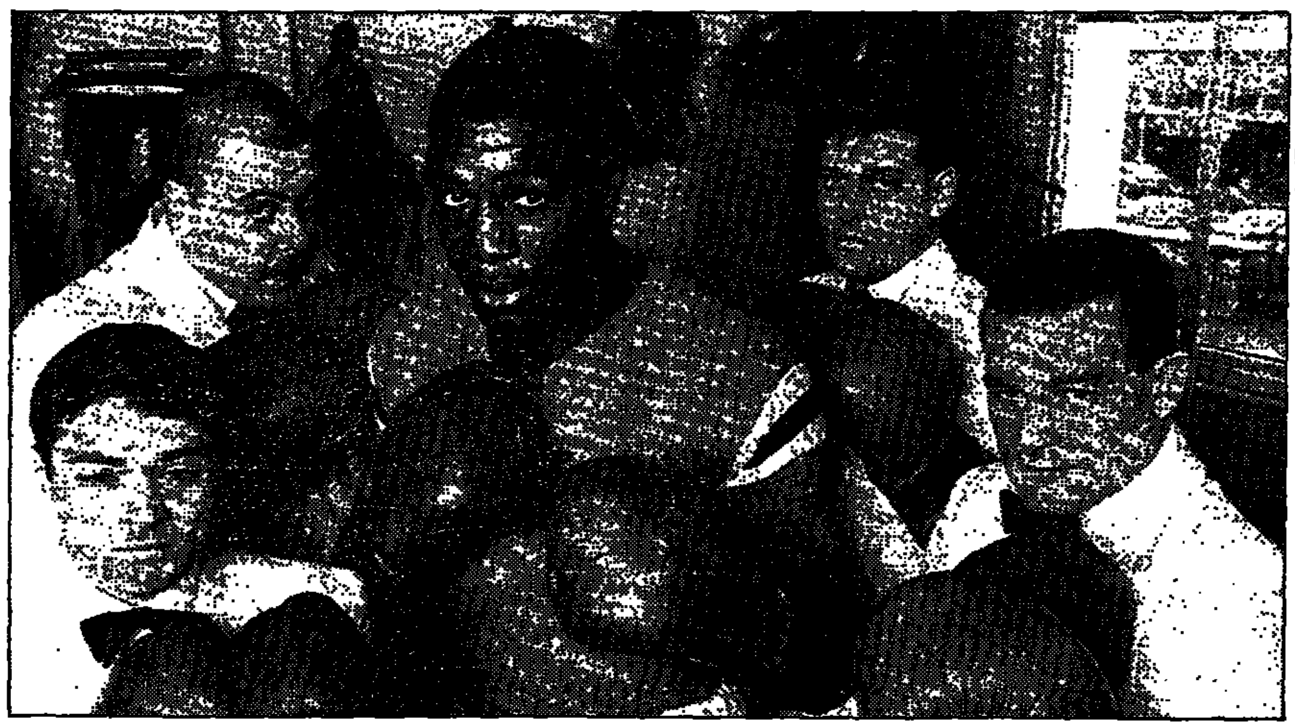
Answers from page 20

PENDICLE
(a) and (b), for something dependent on or subordinate to something else.

ILLATION
(a) Inferring from data, from the irregular past participle of the Latin *inferre*; one must not jump to illations, though for some people it is the only exercise they get.

STEATOPYGOUS
(a) From Greek *stear, steatos* fat, and *puge*, bottom; considered a point of beauty by many cultures.

NOG
(c) In coal-mining a steel or wooden wedge put in a cut in the coalface to stop convergence.



Knockabout stuff: Frank Bruno as a discotheque owner with (left to right) Paul Rider, Andrew Livingston, Andrew Dunn and Richard James Lewis in John Godber's comedy *The Continental*, sequel to *The Ritz* (BBC2 New Year's Eve, 8-9pm)

TELEVISION

The television schedules at this time of year may seem to be little but movies and comedy specials but as Christmas recedes the pickings begin to get more varied. Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Dreams and Recollections (Channel 4, Mon, 8.30-10pm) is a tribute to the Glasgow architect who *died almost forgotten but* whose reputation has since *steadily revived*. In a mixture of drama and documentary, the Mackintoshs are played by Tom Conti and his wife, Kara Wilson.

In a documentary of the more conventional type, Martyn Lewis visits the famous children's hospital in Great Ormond Street — A Fighting Chance (BBC1, Wed, 9.30-10.45pm). Offering a last hope to critically ill children, the hospital is literally falling down and this year launched a *£30 million appeal*.

There is a generous helping of musical nostagia in The Motown Story (Channel 4, New Year's Eve, 9.30-11.15pm). Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Ritchie and Marvin Gaye look back on the explosion of black talent in Detroit in the 1960s with generous footage of their younger selves in action.

The Ten Quid Tourists (ITV, New Year's Day, 10.15-11.15pm) is another trip back to the 1960s when for just £10 it was possible to leave Britain for a new life in Australia. More than a *million Brits took* up the offer and Alan Segal's *film discovers how they fared*.

The centenary of Sherlock Holmes is the cue for a new production of The Sign of Four (ITV, Tues, 8-10pm). Jeremy Brett is Holmes and Jenny Seagrove plays the decorative Miss Morstan who keeps receiving mysterious gifts

Gilbert and Sullivan meet Jonathan Miller in The Mikado (ITV, Wed, 9.50pm-12.10am), a television version *of the well received production* by the English National Opera which sets the action in the 1920s and has Monty Python man Eric Idle as Ko-Ko.

Repeat of the week is the Royal Shakespeare Company's magnificent The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby which starts a four-part re-run on Tuesday (Channel 4, 3-5.05pm), while John Sessions (Channel 4, New Year's Day, 10-11pm) is a one-man show by the Scottish actor and comedian with a gift for verbal pyrotechnics.

RADIO

In his 80th year Alistair Cooke remains as fluent and urbane as ever, not only in *Letter From America* (latest edition tomorrow, Radio 4, 9.15-9.30pm) but also in his enjoyable forays into popular music. In **Alistair Cooke's American Songbook** (Radio 4, today, 2-3pm) he plays, and talks about, songs from the last 200 years which either have a surprising history or went on to make history.

Another sublime broadcaster who refuses to bow to *anno domini* is Arthur Marshall. In **Little Arthur's History of England** (Radio 4, today, 5-5.25pm) he joins in the celebration of a 19th century children's history book which sold nearly a million copies. He also continues readings from his autobiography, **Life's Rich Pageant** (Radio 4, Mon-Thurs, 8.42-8.57pm), and is one of the panellists for **Any Questions?** (Radio 4, New Year's Day, 8.20-9.05pm).

Patricia Hodge plays the villainous Cruella de Vil, trying to turn stolen puppies into fur coats, in Dodie Smith's **101 Dalmations** (Radio 4, today until New Year's Eve, 6.15-6.30pm). Dorothy Tutin narrates this canine classic.

Can You Hear Me, Mother? (New Year's Day, 9.05-9.30pm) is an appreciation by Peter Tinniswood of the north country comedian, Sandy Powell. Himself a distinguished *practitioner of northern* humour,. Tinniswood traces the roots of Powell's comedy in working class life and suggests a surrealist affinity with Pirandello.

The drama producer Douglas Cleverdon, who brought Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood* to radio, is remembered by John Wells in **The Clover Hill** (Radio 3 today, 7.50-8.05pm). Next week Radio 3 is repeating a famous Cleverdon series, the Hilda Tablet plays by Henry Reed. **A Very Great Man Indeed** (Mon, 5.10-6.35pm) is followed by **A Hedge, Backwards** (Wed, 5.10-6.35pm) and **The Primal Scene, As It Were** (New Year's Day, 5.10-6.45pm). Hugh Burden leads a cast of famous radio names.

Rock in Russia (Radio 1, Mon, 9-10pm) is a report by Anne Nightingale on the post-*glasnost* state of popular music in the Soviet Union, while the *most successful* group of 1987 tell their story in **The Rise and Rise of U2** (Radio 1, Mon, 2-4pm).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 **WALES: 5.15-5.20pm** Sports News Wales. **SCOTLAND: 5.15-5.20pm** Scottish News and Sport. **NORTHERN IRELAND: 4.55-5.05pm** Northern Ireland Results (within Grandstand) **5.15-5.20** Inside Ulster Newline. **ENGLAND: 5.15-5.20pm** South and East (London) — Sport. South and East (Plymouth) — Spotlight News and Sport. All other English regions — Regional News and Sport.

ANGLIA As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: The Cat From Outer Space.

BORDER As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: The Cat From Outer Space **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors **1.30am** Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: **10.30am** Starbreaker **11.10** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: The Cat From Outer Space **2.00-4.45** Film: Paint Your Wagon **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors **1.30am** Prisoner Cell Block H **2.25** Film: The House of the Baskervilles **4.00** Jobfinder, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: The Cat From Outer Space **4.00am** Company, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: The Cat From Outer Space **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors **1.30am** Reflecions, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** The Cat From Outer Space **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder with Mirrors **1.30am** Police Woman **2.25** America's Top 10 **2.55** Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: Cat From Outer Space **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors **1.30am** All-Time Christmas Top 10 **2.40** Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: No variations.

SCOTTISH As London except: **10.00am** Glen Michael's Christmas Box **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: The Cat From Outer Space **2.00-2.35** Sporting Triangles **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors **1.30am** Late Call, Closedown.

TSW As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** The Cat From Outer Space **12.45am** Postscript, Closedown.

TVS As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: The Cat From Outer Space **4.00am** Company, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: Cat From Outer Space **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors **1.30** Poetry of the People **1.40** Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: The Cat From Outer Space **4.55-5.00** Sports Results **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors **1.25am** Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: **10.30am** The Roxy **11.00** Mickey Mouse **11.10-1.00pm** Film: Cat From Outer Space **11.45** Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors **1.30am** Meltdown **2.30** Close

S4C Starts: **10.00am** Land of Man **11.00** Story of Abba **12.00** Countdown **12.30pm** Racing **2.40** Film: The Awful Truth" **4.30** Ballet: Napoli **6.30** Y Mwyaf Mentrus **7.00** Ymlaen I Mayfair **7.30** Newyddion **7.50** Ma' 'Dolig 'ma 'Ma **8.30** Awyr Las **9.35** Y Maes Chwarae **10.25** Golden Girls **10.55** John Huston and the Dubliners **11.55** Comic Strip Presents...Consuela **12.40am** The Decameron **1.00** Film: The Tingler" **2.40** Closedown.

SUNDAY

ANGLIA As London except: No variation.

BORDER As London except: **12.00 midnight** Top Ten New Acts of the 1980s **12.30am** Border Weather, followed by Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: **12.00 midnight** Prisoner Cell Block H **12.55am** Donahue **1.50** Film: Burnt Evidence **3.00** Jobfinder, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: **12.00 midnight** Film: Airplane II — The Sequel **1.35am** Weather, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: **12.00 midnight** America's Top Ten **12.30am** Reflections **12.35** Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: **12.00 midnight** Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Gloating Place **12.30am** Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except: **12.00 midnight** America's Top 10 **12.30am** Weather and Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: No variation.

SCOTTISH As London except: **12.00 midnight** Late Call **12.05am** The All-Time Christmas Top Ten **12.35** Closedown.

TSW As London except: **12.00 midnight** Postcript **12.05am** Closedown.

TVS As London except: **12.00 midnight** Film: Airplane II — The Sequel **1.35am** Company followed by Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: **1.00am** Epilogue **1.10** Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: **12.00 midnight** Easy Street **12.25am** Ulster Newstime, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: **12.00 midnight** Lord of the Tin Soldiers: Lord Cholmondeley's Collection **12.30am** Five Minutes **12.35** Closedown.

S4C Starts: **8.45am** Hafoc **10.00** Cup Final 1987 **12.00** Chart Show Special **1.30pm** Film: My Man Godfrey" **3.15** The Snowman **3.45** Old Man of Lochnagar **5.00** A Gospel Session 'Everybody Say Yeah!' **6.10** American Football **7.15** Sam Tan **7.20** Newyddion **7.30** Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn **8.10** Pobol Y Cwm **8.40** Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol **9.10** Film: I Fro Breuddwydion **11.10** Maria Callas — Life and Art **12.40am** Closedown.

هكذا من الاصل

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

SATURDAY

CHOICE

● It may have been performed umpteen times in rep, but there's no harm in pulling the cracker again and bringing out a Christmas revival of one of J. B. Priestley's best loved comedies, When We Are Married (BBC2, 9.45pm). For one thing, it's simply enormous fun. There is no sight in the world, for example, as formidable as Rosemary Leach spitting scorn and fury or the admirable Patricia Routledge heaping invective on an open-mouthed Peter Vaughan. Add to the mixture (deep breath) Prunella Scales, Timothy West, Bernard Cribbins, Patsy Rowlands and Joss Ackland — in glorious form as the tipsy press photographer — and Shaun Sutton's production brings it up as freshly-minted as new potatoes with a plate of roast beef — and Yorkshire, of course. Watch, too, for Liz Smith, as the plate-breaking servant — quite literally smashing. Should anyone not know by now, the story concerns three smug couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversaries, only to discover that the priest who married them was unqualified. Pomposity pricked is the stuff of pure farce and here it is played to the hilt. Direction, briskly paced, is by Barry Davis.

Ken Gosling

Posing for a family photograph: the cast of J.B. Priestley's When We are Married, on BBC2, at 9.45pm

BBC1

8.20 Roobarb (r) 8.25 Saturday Starts Here with Paddington's Birthday Bonanza.

8.50 Panto-Time! with Brian Cant as Jack in Jack and the Beanstalk 9.00 The Muppet Babies 9.30 Going Live!. Among the guests is *Bread* star *Peter Howitt* 12.17 Weather.

12.20 Film: Race for Your Life Charlie Brown! (1977). An animated tale featuring the whole of the Peanuts comic strip gang. on a somewhat exhaustive adventure camp holiday. Directed by Bill Melendez.

1.35 Film: The Great Escape. (Ceefax) (see facing page)

4.20 Telly Addicts. The champions of 1986, the Reynish family from Swansea, meet this year's winners, the Brustads from Gwent.

4.50 Final Score presented by Harry Gration.

5.05 News and weather 5.15 Regional news/sport.

5.20 Blankety Blank. Les Dawson's guests are Lynda Baron, Joe Brown, Geoff Capes, Lorraine Chase, Roy Hudd and Wendy Richard. (Ceefax)

6.00 *Hi-de-Hi! This first of a* new series finds Ted in a confrontation with a tough Marine sergeant that leads to the Yellowcoats competing with the Royal Marine Commando Gymnastic team over a tough assault course. (Ceefax)

6.45 Bob's Christmas Full House. Bingo quiz game presented by Bob Monkhouse. (Ceefax)

7.25 The Paul Daniels Magic Christmas Show. *The guests are René* Lavand, a sleight of hand artist; Philippe Genty with his puppets; and the Brave Seamen, climbers from Korea. (Ceefax)

8.15 Bergerac. The Jersey *detective* is challenged by an old adversary, Phillipa Vale who carries out a series of seemingly unconnected robberies. Starring John Nettles and Liza Goddard. (Ceefax)

News, sport and weather.
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BBC2

9.00 Ceefax.

11.50 International Snooker. David Vine introduces highlights of the Masters World Championship, Grand Prix and United Kingdom Championship.

1.35 Gymnastics Compilation. Highlights of six days of world championship gymnastics held two months ago in Rotterdam (r).

2.25 Film: Peter No-Tail. An animated feature film about a kitten who is born with no tail and whom nobody wants. Rightly thinking he is destined for a watery grave the kitten leaves his barn home and stows away in a motor car for a new life in the city. Directed by Michael Bakewell.

3.45 Jacqueline du Pré Masterclass. The cello version of the César Franck Sonata in A major recorded in 1979 at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. With Alexander Baillie and David Perks. The accompanist is Clifford Benson. Last in the series (r).

Greta Garbo: star of Queen Christina, BBC2, 11.45pm

4.20 The Story of Royal Broadcasting. David Jessel traces the history of royal broadcasting, begun by King George V in 1932 (r).

5.20 Film: Oliver! (Ceefax) (see facing page)

7.40 Cinderella. Rudolph Nuryev's Paris Opera Ballet version of the fairytale starring Sylvie Guillem in the title role and Charles Jude as the Prince. Serge Prokofiev's music is played by the Orchestre National, conducted by Michel Queval.

9.45 Play: When We Are Married by J.B.Priestley. (Ceefax) (see Choice)

11.45 Film: Queen Christina (b/w). (see facing page)

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am includes *cartoons, the Wide Awake* Club pantomime between 6.15 and 7.30, and news and weather at 9.23.

9.25 BMX Beat. The Tizer World BMX Freestyle Championships 10.00 The Velveteen Rabbit. Animated children's story 10.30 The Smurfs (r)

11.00 Film: Professor Poopsnagle's Steam Zeppelin: A Race to the Finish. (1986) starring Jose Maria Caffarel. *The fifth adventure involving* Dr Garcia and the children and theirbattles with the wicked Count Sator. Directed by Howard Rubie and Russell Webb 12.30 The Roxy (r).

1.00 News.

1.05 Saint & Greavsie's Boxing Day Special. Ian and Jimmy look forward to the Boxing Day fixtures and back to the good, the bad and the funny sporting moments of the year. 2.00 A.L.F. Adventures of an alien life force.

2.30 Film: Scrooge. (see facing page) 4.35 Mickey's Birthday Party. Cartoon.

4.45 Results Service.

5.00 News.

5.05 Christmas Robbins. Comedy impressions from Kate and Ted Robbins.

5.50 The Sleeping Beauty. An ice show spectacular starring Robin *Cousins and Rosalynn* Sumners.

6.50 Bobby Davro's TV Annual '88. Comedy and music from Bobby Davro and his guest, Jessica Martin.

7.30 Film: Ghost Busters. *(Oracle) (see facing page)*

9.30 News.

9.45 The Dame Edna Christmas Experience! The housewife megastar's Christmas message to the universe.

10.50 Clive James in Japan. Part two.

11.45 Barbara Dickson at the Royal Albert Hall. The Scottish singer recorded in November.

12.45 Fun in the Sun. Surfing and jet-skiing.

1.00 Night Network.

4.00 Film: The Return of the Beverly Hillbillies (1981) starring Buddy Ebsen. Granny's all-purpose mixture could be the answer to the government's energy problem. Directed by Robert Leeds.

5.40 Christmas Cartoon Time. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

9.25 Film: The Big Store *(b/w) (see facing page)*

11.00 Kalahari — Wilderness Without Water. The wildlife of the African desert (r) 12.00 Dancin' Days (r).

12.30 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park. Brough Scott introduces coverage of the 12.45, 1.15, 1.45 and 2.20 (King George VI Rank Chase) races.

2.45 Animating Art A documentary about the work of Disney's *legendary animator Art* Babbitt (r). 3.30 Shorelines. The coast of the Orkneys as seen through three pairs of eyes — an artist, a painter and a sculptor.

3.50 The Old Man of Lochnagar. The Whirligig Theatre production of a musical play based on the book written by Prince Charles. (Oracle)

5.05 Brookside (r). (Oracle)

6.00 A Ladies Knight! Musical favourites introduced by Sir Geraint Evans who sings Mozart's Don Giovanni with soprano Fiona Dobie. Other guests include LaVerne Williams and Bruce Hubbard who sing songs from Kern's Show *Boat; the Fairfield* Quartet; and jennifer Bate who plays two numbers from the musical Mack and mabel on the Compton organ at the Leicester Square Odeon.

7.00 News summary and weather followed by Andrés Segovia: The Song of the Guitar. A tribute to the late Spanish guitarist filmed in the palace of the Alhambra and in Granada (r).

8.00 A Century of Stars. The story of the Grand Order of Water Rats (r).

9.30 A Fine Romance. Domestic comedy series starring Judi Dench *and Michael Williams (r).* (Oracle)

10.05 Grand Illusions. A look behind the scenes at a day in the life of lesser-known entertainers.

11.15 Lily Tomlin: The Film Behind the Show. A documentary following Lily Tomlin as she tries out her stage show across the United States before it begins its successful Broadway run.

12.55 The Decameron. Cross Purposes.

1.10 Film: The Tingler *(b/w).* (see facing page)

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Radio 3

6.55 Weather 7.00 News

7.05 Morning Concert: Delius (Sleigh Ride: Northern Sinfonia of England), Bernstein (songs from Peter Pan: Roberta Alexander, soprano; with Tan Crone, piano), Leopold Mozart (Symphony in C, the Toy: Stuttgart CO), Chopin (Variations on theme from Rossini's La Generentola: Maxence Larrieu, flute; Susanna Mildonian, harp), Tchaikovsky (Swan Lake suite: Israel PO under Zubin Mehta)

8.00 World Service News

8.10 Concert (contd): Coates (Cinderella Phantasy: RLPO under Sir Charles Groves), Massenet (Que mes soeurs sont heureuses, Cendrillon: Frederica von Stade, mezzo; with Philharmonia under Julius Rudel), Saint-Saens (Carnival of the Animals: Pittsburgh SO under André Previn) 9.00 News

9.05 The Octave of the Nativity: (4) The Procession and Mass of St Stephen (celebrated in 1529, in the *Palace of Westminster*). BBC Singers, under Stephen Cleobury (r)

10.20 Record Review: regular contributors (Nicholas Kenyon, Rodney Milnes, Richard Osborne, and John Warrack) pick their 1987 favourites. Presented by Paul Vaughan

11.40 Stereo Release: Tchaikovsky's music for Act 2 of The Nutcracker (LSO under Sir Charles Mackerras), Shostakovich (Seven Romances on poems by Blok: with Elisabeth Söderstrom, soprano), George Benjamin (A Mind of Winter: London Sinfonietta with Penelope Walmsley-Clark, soprano) 1.00 News

1.05 Performances by the Roth, Carmina, Stamitz, Rosamonde, Nasdala and Spohr Quartets of Mendelsson's Octet, Op 20; Mozart's Quartet in C, K 465, and his Quartet in G, K 156; also Dutilleux's Ainsi la nuit and Berg's Quartet, Op 3

3.00 BBC Philharmonic, under Gergiev, with Maxim Vengerov, violin; and Evgeny Kissin, piano. Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1). Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No 1)

4.00 BBC Singers: Stravinsky (*Les Noces*, sung in Russian: with soloists Ludmilla Andrew, Fe4licity Palmer, Ian Caley, Neil Howlett, and planists Nettle, Markham, Bridge, and Higgins. With Endymion Ensemble). Also Britten's Choral Dances from Gloriana, and Robert Saxton's I Will Awake the Dawn

5.00 Jazz Record Requests: with Peter Clayton

5.45 Critics' Forum: Christopher Cook chairs this forum in which regular contributors to the programme pick their favourites for 1987

6.45 BBC Welsh SO, under Tadaaki Otaka. With Helen Field (soprano). Mahler (Symphony No 4)

7.50 The Clover Hill: John Wells's memoir of BBC producer Douglas Cleverdon who died this year

8.05 Maurice Ravel: Anja Van Wijk (mezzo), Ruud Van der Meer (baritone) and Rudolf Jansen (piano) perform songs including Ballade de la reine; and Un grand sommeil noir

8.40 BBC SO under Günter Wand. Mozart (Symphony No 40), Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6)

10.00 Definitely the Bahamas: Rosemary Leach, Norman Bird and Holly de Jong (as the Dutch *au pair*) in the play by Martin Crimp (r)

11.00 Music of the Royal Courts: William Robson introduces music from, inter alia, China, Zaire, Malaysia and Tibet

11.57 News 12.00 Closedown

Radio 4

LW (long wave). (s) Stereo VHF.

5.55 Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Prelude: A selection of seasonable music 6.50 Prayer 6.55 Weather.

7.00 News Bulletin.

7.10 And on the Second Day of Christmas: Cliff Morgan, Bernard Falk and guests with a programme full of glamour, holidays, sport and competitions. Incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.50 Thought for the Day 7.55, 8.57 Weather 8.00, 9.00 News.

10.00 News; Best of Loose Ends: Part 1, hosted by Ned Sherrin, with guests including Jonathan Ross and Carol Thatcher

11.00 News; The Year Ahead: BBC News Correspondents, *linked from their bases* around the world, try to predict the main issues in 1988.

12.00 Dylan Thomas: Return Journey: A recording from the BBC Sound Archives in which the poet returns — in his imagination — to the Swansea of his childhood.

12.25 Hancock's Half Hour: Tony Hancock and the regular team in "Agricultural 'Ancock"

12.55 Weather prospects

1.00 News

1.10 A Brush with the Bicester: A trip with the Bicester Hunt to discover who goes fox-hunting — and why.

2.00 News; Alistair Cooke's American Songbook: A collection of songs from 200 years of American history

3.00 News: The Pickwick Papers, by Charles Dickens (2) Dingley Dell

4.00 A Little *Bit of Magic* Realised: Documentary about the production by the English National Opera of Engelbert Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel

5.00 Little Arthur's History of England: the story of Lady *Callcott's history book*, which has sold nearly a million copies since 1835, and Arthur Marshall recalls his pleasure at reading it

5.25 The Board Game Game: Nick Baker investigates the history and appeal of board games, from time immemorial (r) 5.50 Shipping Forecast

6.00 News Bulletin

6.15 The Hundred and One Dalmations: by Dodie Smith, dramatized in 7 parts (1) The Happy Couples (s).

6.30 Citizens: Omnibus edition of the serial

7.15 News Quiz of the Year: Barry Took chairs a special edition of the quiz looking back on events in *1987* with Alan Coren, Ian Hislop and guests.

7.45 Crime at Christmas: Whose Body, by Dorothy L Sayers, with Gary Bond at Lord Peter Wimsey (s).

9.15 Music in Mind: Richard Baker presents a selection of words and music.

9.50 Ten to Ten: A *reading*, a hymn and reflection, led by Stephen Oliver. 9.59 Weather.

10.00 News bulletin

10.15 Let *Saints* on Earth in Concert Sing: Derek Wilson presents a tribute to the Wesley family through *music and dialogue.*

11.00 The Countryside at Christmas: Mollie Harris visits the village of Duckington in Oxfordshire and revives childhood memories (r).

11.45 Little Horrors: (new series) Five short, nasty, tales by Angus Graham-Campbell (1) Conjuring with Spikenard.

12.00 News; Weather

VHF as above except: 1.55-2.00 pm Programme News 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

ICE

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V: on facing page

SUNDAY

Cherie Lunghi and Kenneth Branagh in Christopher Fry's play The Lady's Not for Burning, ITV, 10.30pm

CHOICE

● Christopher Fry was given a private preview this week of Yorkshire Television's handsomely mounted new production of his best-known play, The Lady's Not For Burning (ITV, 10.30pm). Everyone else will have to wait until tonight to see the company's special 80th birthday tribute to the playwright which is also a celebration of the best in British acting talent. It's well worth suspending all other celebrations to catch some superb performances from the *theatre's current leading light*, Kenneth Branagh, as the discharged soldier; Cherie Lunghi, playing the witch; Angela Thorne, admirably suited to the role of Margaret Devize; as well as the inestimable Bernard Hepton, Paul Rogers and - a great delight - Robert Eddison, playing the chaplain. The sets (designer, Jeremy Bear) match the playing.But don't think you can get away with a cursory listen: cut out all extraneous sounds to relish *the full beauty of* the text. David Cunliffe, who produced for YTV with direction by Julian Amyes, has called it a privilege to present this still fresh and remarkable play, first performed at the Arts Theatre in 1949. Yorkshire produced Fry's first work for television 14 years ago.

K.G.

BBC1

8.30 The Raccoons (r). 8.55 Play School.

9.15 Articles of Faith. Is prayer remote from everyday life?

9.30 Morning Worship from the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St Joseph's, Swansea 10.15 Joseph and Child. Arthur Dooley's sculpture (r). 10.30 Sign Extra. For the hard of hearing.

10.55 Film: The Intelligence Men. (see facing page)

12.35 The Grand Knockout Tournament featuring the *Duke of York* competing on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund, the Duchess of York for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, Prince Edward for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Project '87 and the Princess Royal for the Save the Children Fund (r).

1.55 News and weather 2.00 EastEnders (r). (Ceefax)

3.30 Film: Escape to Victory. (Ceefax) (see facing page)

5.20 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time.

5.45 That's Life! Presents. Esther Rantzen introduces the most *talented pets who have* appeared in the programme over the past 15 years.

6.20 News with Philip Hayton. Weather.

6.35 Songs of Praise from London and Jamaica. *(Ceefax)*

7.15 Last of the Summer Wine. Compo and Clegg are not really interested in Gary and Vi's annual garden party — until they learn that Nora Batty is *going to be a waitress* and that Seymour is in charge of the public address system. (Ceefax).

8.35 Film: The Case of the Shooting Star (1986) starring Raymond Burr as *Perry Mason. Can* the redoubtable lawyer clear a famous film star who was seen by 40 million people shooting dead on television a chat show host? Directed by Ron Satlof. (Ceefax)

10.10 News with Philip Hayton. Weather.

10.25 Everyman: Madonna. A visit to the modern shrines and ancient sites associated with the mother of Christianity.

11.20 Film: The Maltese Falcon (b/w). (see facing page)

1.00 Weather.

BBC2

9.00 Ceefax.

9.15 *Babar Comes to* America, narrated by Peter Ustinov (r).

9.40 Sebastian, the Incredible Drawing Dog (r).

9.45 The Mole in a Dream. Mole becomes involved with an electronics expert whose life revolves round electric gadgets (r).

10.15 Molly's Pilgrim. Molly, a little girl from Russia, now living in the United States, teaches a lesson to the *schoolmates who treat* her unkindly (r).

10.35 Charlie Brown.

11.25 Film: Arabian Adventure. (Ceefax) (see facing page) 1.00 No Limits. Rock music programme (r).

2.00 The Bolshoi Ballet. An *Omnibus* special filmed at the ballet company's rehearsals in Moscow. Plus, a glimpse of the stars of tomorrow training at the Moscow Choreographic Institute, the Bolshoi Ballet school (r).

4.10 The Great Philosophers. John Searle, professor of philosophy at the University of California at Berkeley, discusses Wittgenstein. Presented by Bryan Magee. (Ceefax)

4.55 Did You See. . ? Kenneth Williams, Janet Street-Porter and Kit Harvey review *Hi-de-Hi!, Christmas Past* and *When We Are Married.* Plus, Ludovic Kennedy's pick of the year's television.

5.45 Film: Bush Christmas. (see facing page)

7.15 Mary Rose, a play by J.M.Barrie, adapted by *Trevor Ray. An* Australian soldier returns to the house from which he ran away when 12 years old when he learns it is haunted, perhaps by his mother. Starring Neil McCaul and Amanda Root. (Ceefax)

8.55 Global Report: A Year of Transition. The year as seen by Judith Pena, a young Nicaraguan doctor; Lu Mong Da, a Chinese teacher; Avi Abel an Estonian entrepreneur; Sunday Tuch, a Khartoum urchin; and Satch Conta a Philippino journalist. The narrators are Iain Guest and Anna Massey.

10.25 Film: Still of the Night. (Ceefax) (see facing page)

11.55 Film: Ninotchka (b/w). (see facing page)

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am

9.25 BMX Beat. 10.00 Film: The Johnstown Monster (1971) starring Connor Brennan. A youngster on holiday helps the children of an Irish village to create a lough monster to attract tourists to the area. Directed by Olaf Pooley.

11.00 Morning Worship from St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in London's Soho Square.

12.00 Chris Bonington - the Everest Years. A *documentary* about the life and climbs of the mountaineer.

1.00 Film: Fuzzbucket. A Disney tale of a 12-year-old helping to concoct a potion to make his invisible friend visible. Directed by Mick Garris.

2.00 The Royal Year. Julia Somerville reviews the highlights and reveals the results of a poll on what the people of Britain think about the monarchy.

2.45 Christmas Bullseye presented by Jim Bowen.

3.30 The Bretts. The Bretts have to face the consequences of the fire at the Princess. 4.30 Cue Gary's Christmas! starring Gary Wilmot.

5.15 Coronation Street *(r).* (Oracle)

6.15 News

6.20 Highway Christmas Special.

7.15 Home to Roost. Henry's children decide on a Christmas visit — *but Henry has other* ideas. (Oracle)

8.15 Christmas Surprise Surprise with Cilla Black

9.15 Watching. Comedy love story.

9.45 News.

10.00 Spitting Image.

10.30 The Lady's Not For Burning. (see Choice)

12.00 Hart to Hart. Jonathan and Jennifer become murder targets (r).

1.00 Night Network includes a tribute to the late Karen Carpenter.

2.00 Film: North to Alaska (1960) starring John Wayne and Stewart Granger. After striking gold in Alaska, Sam returns to Seattle to bring his partner's fiancée back but finds she has married someone else. So he settles for a pretty bar-room girl. Directed by Henry Hathaway.

3.45 Cahill: United States Marshal (1973) starring John Wayne. Western adventure directed by Andrew V. McLaglen.

5.40 Cartoon Time. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

9.25 Movie Mahal (colour and b/w). Part 14 of the history of the Indian cinema industry.

10.00 Coventry's Cup of Joy. Coventry FC's FA Cup Final triumph re-lived by the team's George Curtis and John Sillett.

12.00 The Chart Show Christmas Special including the top ten singles of the year and the worst videos.

1.30 Glenn Miller: a Moonlight Serenade. A tribute to Glen Miller and his band with contributions from, among others, Tex Beneke, Marion Hutton, Johnny Desmond and Van Johnson (r).

3.00 Damon and Debbie. The omnibus edition of the three-part spin-off from *Brookside* about Damon Grant and his girlfriend Debbie. Starring Simon O'Brien and Gillian Kearney (r).

5.30 West Country Journey. A British Rail travelogue, made in *1953*, extolling the beauty of the West Country.

6.00 American Football.

7.15 News summary and weather followed by Mon Cher Papa. A documentary illustrating how the lives of *illustrator and writer* Maurice Sendak and the composer Mozart have interweaved since the death of Sendak's father and a consequential visit to see Mozart's opera *Idomeneo.*

8.20 An Icelandic Saga. An animated film from Sweden about a man explaining how he went from childhood to immediate old age.

8.30 Maria Callas — Life and Art. A documentary film tracing the life and career of the great soprano. The film uses rare archive material and interviews with Robert Sutherland, her accompanist on her last tour, Giuseppe di Stefano, Franco Zeffirelli, Carlo Maria Giulini, Lord Harewood and Peter Andry, her last recording manager.

10.00 Film: The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. (see facing page)

12.10 The Decameron. In Pestle and Mortar, the last in the series of silhouette animated tales based on Boccaccio's stories, a village priest has his way with the previously unattainable Belcolore. Ends at 12.30.

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below) 6.00am Nicky Campbell 8.00 Peter Powell 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 1.00pm Sunday Oldies with Mike Read 3.00 Radio Scruples 3.30 Backchat 4.00 On Cloud Nine (George Harrison) 5.00 Top 40 7.00 Anne Nightingale 9.00 Andy Peebles Soul Train 11.00-12.00 The Ranking Miss P. VHF Stereo Radios 1 and 2: 4.00am As Radio 2 5.00pm As Radio 1 12.00-4.00am As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1) News on the hour (except 8.00pm). Sports Desks 12.02pm, 6.02, 10.02 4.00am Dave Bussey 6.00 Graham Knight 7.30 Good Morning Sunday 9.05 Melodies for You 11.00 Desmond Carrington 1.00pm Brian Matthew (Round Midnight's autumn in New York) 2.00 Benny Green 3.00 Alan Dell 4.00 Moira Anderson's Serenade 4.30 Sing Something Simple (Cliff Adams Singers) 5.00 Charlie Chester with Sunday Soapbox 7.00 Living with Betty (Barbara Windsor and Peter Sallis) 7.30 Ian Wallace Presents Sir Geraint Evans 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour (from Restalrig Parish Church, Edinburgh) 9.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes (Alan Keith) 10.05 Songs From the Shows 10.45 Laurie Holloway at the piano 11.00 Sounds of Jazz (Tony Russell) 1.00am Bill Rennells 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music.

WORLD SERVICE

All programme times given in GMT 6.00am Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.50 Waveguide 8.00 News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours 9.00 World News 9.09 Sunday Papers 9.15 Cantabile at Christmas 9.45 On the Road 10.00 News 10.01 Short Story 10.15 Classical Record Review 10.30 Sunday Service 11.00 News 12.09 News About Britain 11.15 From our own Correspondent 11.30 Londres Midi 12.00 News 12.01 Play of the Week: Plutus 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours 1.30 A Matter of Honour 2.00 News 2.01 Sandi Jones Request Show 2.30 Sports Roundup 2.45 The Hounds of Fate 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 News 4.09 Commentary 4.15 Art and Accountability 4.45 Letter from America 5.00 News 5.09 Reflections 5.15 English by Radio 5.45 Londres Soir 6.30 Heute Aktuel 8.00 News 8.09 Twenty-four Hours 8.30 A Matter of Honour 9.00 News 9.01 Short Story 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours 10.00 News 10.09 I've Been Together Now for 70 Years 10.25 Book Choice 10.30 Financial Review of the Year *10.40 Reflections* 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Letter from America 11.30 Questions of Faith 12.00 News 12.09 News About Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Religious Service 1.00 News 1.01 Pop Special 2.00 News 2.09 Commentary 2.15 Peebles' Choice 2.30 Discovery 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Good Books 3.30 A Matter of Honour 4.00 Newsdesk *4.30 Six Four Eight 4.35 Financial News* 4.45 Morgenmagazin 5.46 Recording of the Week.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather 7.00 News

7.05 *English Pastorals:* recordings, including Grainger's Blithe Bells (Bournemouth Sinfonietta), Finzi's In terra pax, Christmas Scene (New Philharmonia, John Alldis Choir, soloists Jane Manning and John Noble), and Britten's Balulalow, A Ceremony of Carols (Choir of Westminster Cathedral, with Sioned Williams, harp)

8.00 World Service News

8.10 Lili Kraus: the pianist in recordings of Schubert's Piano Sonata in A, D 664; and Mozart's Piano Concerto No 25 (with Vienna Festival Orchestra) 9.00 News

9.05 Your Concert Choice: Dvorak (Symphony No 6: Czech PO), Luigini (Ballet egyptien (LSO), Bach (Chorale prelude: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 (E. Powers Biggs, organ) and Purcell (Verse anthem: Behold I Bring You Glad Tidings (Choir of St John's College, Cambridge)

10.30 The Octave of the Nativity: Musica Sacra Rediviva perform The Mass on Sunday After Christmas in the style of the one in Milan in 1128 (r)

11.30 New Stockholm Chamber Orchestra, under Forseberg, with Hakan *Hardenberger (trumpet).* Tubin (Music for strings), Nielsen (Little Suite), Dvorak (Waltz in A minor, Op 54 No 2), Jolivet (Concertino for trumpet and strings)

12.20 Aldeburgh Festival 1987: Endellion String Quartet play Haydn's Op 54 No 2, *Britten's Op 25, and* Beethoven's Rasumovsky Quartet, Op 59 No 3

1.45 London Classical Players, under Roger Norrington. With Melvyn Tan (harpsichord). Part one. Beethoven (The *Creatures of Prometheus* overture, and Piano Concerto No 1)

2.25 Words: a talk by John Sperry, the industrial historian

2.30 Concert: part two. Beethoven's Symphony No 3

3.20 Piano recital: part one. Dmitri Alexeev plays Chopin's Polonaise-fantaisie in A flat, Op 61, and Scriabin's Four Preludes Op 22; Two Poems, Op 32; and Sonata No 5

3.55 My Dear Friend Henriette: Anthony Finigan on Schumann letters

4.10 Recital: part two. Schumann's Etudes symphoniques, Op 13

5.00 Chris Martin's Lex Talionis: tale of revenge, by Nigel Baldwin. With cast including Harriet Walter, Bill Nighy and Peter Howell (r)

6.35 BBC Scottish SO, under Maksymiuk. With Roman Jablonski (cello). Lutoslawski (Chain III: and Cello Concerto), and Shostakovich's Symphony *No 1*

7.50 Fischer-Dieskau at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The baritone (with Hartmut Höll, piano) in an all-Wolf programme. Interval reading at 8.25. The songs include Im Frühling; Auf einer Wanderung; An die *Geliebte; Mörike Lieder;* Der Genesene an die Hoffnung

9.30 The 1987 Reith Lectures, by Alexander Goehr. Last of six talks on The Survival of the Symphony

10.00 Anti-organic Developments: Ives (Decoration *Day: New* York PO), and Berio (Sinfonia, 1969: New Swingle Singers, and Orchestre Nationale de France)

10.50 The Octave of the Nativity (6): Mass of St John the Evangelist, as performed in 1509 in Innsbruck. London Lassus Ensemble, Margaret Philips (organ). Michael George (celebrant and bass)

11.57 News 12.00 Closedown

Radio 4

LW (long wave). (s) stereo on VHF

5.55 Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Prelude (s)

6.30 News; Morning has Broken (s) 6.55 Weather

7.00 News 7.10 Sunday Papers 7.15 On Your Farm

7.40 Sunday (religious news and views) incl 7.56 Weather

8.00 News 8.10 Sunday Papers

8.50 The Week's Good Cause (Sir Harry Secombe) 8.55 Weather

9.00 News bulletin

9.10 Sunday Papers

9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke

9.30 Morning Service, from Christchurch, Prestatyn

10.15 The Archers: omnibus edition

11.15 On Duty: Gerald Kay reflects on a life spent among clocks

11.30 Pick of the Year: Margaret Howard with a selection of her favourite TV and radio highlights

12.25 Hancock's Half Hour: Sunday Afternoon at Home. More vintage comedy with Tony Hancock and the gang 12.55 Weather

1.00 News

1.05 News Review of the Year: Phil Longman looks back 1.55 Shipping

2.00 Les Miserables: A documentary exploring the translation to the stage of Victor Hugo's epic novel. Featuring some of the music from the show. With James Grout as Hugo (r)

3.00 News; The Pickwick Papers, by Charles Dickens (3) Alarms and Excursions. With Freddie Jones as Mr Pickwick, and Simon Cadell as Charles Dickens (r) (s)

4.00 News; An Evening with Alan Jay Lerner: The late author and lyricist talking about his life and work in musical theatre (r)

5.00 News; With Great Pleasure: Sue Townsend, creator of Adrian Mole, presents favourite poetry and prose. With Peter Geoffrey and Julia Hills 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather

6.00 News bulletin

6.15 The Hundred and One Dalmatians by Dodie Smith (2) Hark, Hark, the Dogs do Bark. Read by Dorothy Tutin

6.30 Murder at the Red October: by Anthony Olcott, dramatized by Matthew Walters in five parts, with *Anton Rodgers as Duvakin* (1)

7.00 News; Space Children: A musical by David Ray Markham. With a cast headed by Jill Balcon, Ben Igo, and Rachel Willis

7.45 Crime at Christmas: The Governess, by Evelyn Hervey. With Angela Pleasence and James Bolam (as Sergeant Drewd)

9.15 The Natural History Programme: presented by Fergus Keeling

10.00 News bulletin

10.15 Behind the Scenes of Crime: Joan Lock talks to members of the Crime Writers' Association, including Simon Brett and P D James (r)

11.00 The Warm-up Men: Glyn Worship meets some of the comedians employed to get studio audiences in the right mood

11.30 Seeds of Faith: In You, Lord, is our Hope. With the Rt Rev Cyril Bowles, retired Bishop of Derby

11.45 Little Horrors: Five short, nasty, tales by Angus Graham-Campbell (2) The Skeleton and the Gypsy. With Annabelle Lanyon, and Bernadette Windsor

12.00 News; Weather

VHF as above except: 1.55-2.00pm Programme News 5.50-5.55 Programme News

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m:VHF-90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m: VHF-92-95; LBC:1152kHz/261m: VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF95.8; BBC Radio London: 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service: MF 648kHz/463m.

Little joy for stores after Christmas sales boom

By Joe Joseph and Carol Leonard

Like Bing Crosby singing *White Christmas* in every supermarket, or London taxi drivers being even more choosy than usual about who they will deign to pick up, it has become a tradition at Christmas for high street retailers to boast that they have never had it so good.

This year, with a few brave exceptions, the boasts were the same. Shoppers spent £18 billion across the country, according to financial analysts, £2 billion more than in 1986.

I wish they'd show REPEATS we haven't seen before..
CLASSIC REPEATS
Calman

Department stores and big retail chains said takings were better than last year. But many City analysts fear that "better than last year" may not be enough to keep profits up.

Mr Nick Bubb, an analyst with Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the stockbroker, said: "I think all retailers are very disappointed with Christmas this year. There were two major high street chains whose sales were up only 3 per cent in the week before Christmas. The picture is patchy. Some chains, like WH Smith and the John Lewis stores, have done well. But sales at a lot of electrical retailers, for example, are actually down on last year."

At Harrods, Mr Andrew Wiles, the promotions manager, admits the stock market crash and a general slowdown in retail spending meant not all sections matched the booming sales in the toy department and food hall.

"Christmas spending is definitely up", Mr Wiles said. "But what is missing is the more considered purchase such as a hi-fi. Sales in those areas are about the same as last year."

Dixons read the signals earlier than most. It admitted last month that there would probably be fewer of its pricey hi-fis, video recorders and cameras sold this year.

Dixons' plight has already been acknowledged in the City. Scrimgeour has cut its forecast for pretax profits this year to £120 million from the £150 million plus it was predicting in the summer.

At Woolworth, Mr Nigel Whittaker, a director, said: It's been a very busy Christmas but not as frantic as some previous years.

The cost of Christmas likely to exceed £16bn

By Robin Young

The country's total bill this Christmas is likely to have exceeded £16 billion, and more than ever before has been run up on credit.

Credit and charge card companies are prepared for their busiest day on Wednesday, when sales vouchers for the last pre-Christmas shopping rush are brought from the banks.

Barclaycard's final estimate was that its 9.5 million customers would have spent £620 million in 19.4 million transactions this December, almost 17 per cent up on last year. Access calculated that the total outlay by its 11 million cardholders would be £870 million, 22 per cent up.

According to both companies it is not only the number of transactions, but also their value, that has increased. In 1986 the average transaction on Access was valued at £30.05, but by the end of November this year it had already climbed to £32.48.

Access says that 4.5 million of its customers will clear their Christmas accounts without having any interest to pay.

Nonetheless finance companies do recognize that debt is a mounting problem even in the affluent South-east.

Mercantile Credit, the Barclays subsidiary, is paying £200,000 over four years to sponsor a specialist citizens' advice unit dealing with debt problems in the South-east, based in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Feast for Windsor royal-watchers

The Princess of Wales with (from left) Lady Davina Windsor, Peter Phillips, Lord Frederick Windsor, Zara Phillips and Prince William

The Princess Royal and Captain Phillips, who is on crutches

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh with the Dean of St George's Chapel

More than 1,000 well-wishers gathered outside St George's Chapel, Windsor, yesterday to catch a glimpse of the Royal Family as they attended Christmas Day matins.

They were rewarded by seeing the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of York, the Princess Royal and her husband Captain Mark Phillips, who was recovering from a torn Achilles tendon.

The royal children, led by Prince William, arrived at the chapel first aboard a green minibus. The Queen Mother was accompanied by Princess Margaret and the Duchess of York.

The Duchess, who entered the chapel a few paces ahead of the Duke of York, looked seasonal in a long red coat. Parents and children, many of them Japanese and American tourists, had cheered and applauded as she stepped out of her car.

Photographs: Chris Harris.

A wave from the Duchess of York

Season of good weather

Continued from page 1

complaining that the sunlit sea was too calm for proper rides.

A hundred swimmers at Hunstanton in Norfolk raised £2,000 for charity by plunging into the sea. "It's freezing", claimed one participant, a kissogram girl, but observers plainly realized that she was exaggerating.

London was largely abandoned to a few strolling foreign tourists, taking advantage of the absence of traffic to get in some sightseeing uninterrupted by traffic.

The morning parade of cavalry to change the guard at Buckingham Palace delayed only a handful of cars at Hyde Park Corner and the hundred or so pedestrians who gathered to watch at the end of the Mall were able to photograph the ceremony from the middle of the road without fear of being knocked over.

Small groups with acquisitive appetites as yet unsated were out in Oxford Street inspecting the bargains shortly to be offered in post-Christmas sales.

Churches had larger than usual congregations and though in London many were still scarcely half full, many in the country had put extra seating in the aisles.

In the countryside the weather offered every inducement to walk off the effects of Christmas lunch.

Informers to be given rewards

Continued from page 1

discuss model Crime Stopper schemes.

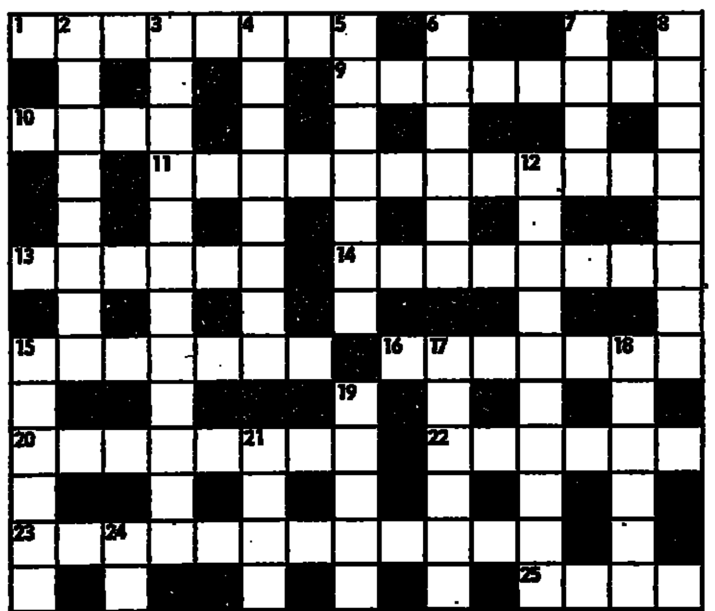
The new Crime Stopper initiative is part of the biggest ever crime prevention drive, to be launched by the Home Office next month with an £11 million advertising budget.

Ministers believe they are seeing the first flickers of evidence that increased public understanding of the importance of crime prevention is bringing results, with the latest quarter's crime figures showing a decrease in domestic burglaries for the first time for years.

Architects, builders and planners are showing more attention to designing crime out of new estates.

Ministers anticipate the 42,000 neighbourhood watch schemes swelling to 100,000 by the end of 1988. Mr Hurd is finalizing plans to set up a national crime prevention organization next year drawing together the work of neighbourhood watch schemes and the 300 local crime prevention panels.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,549



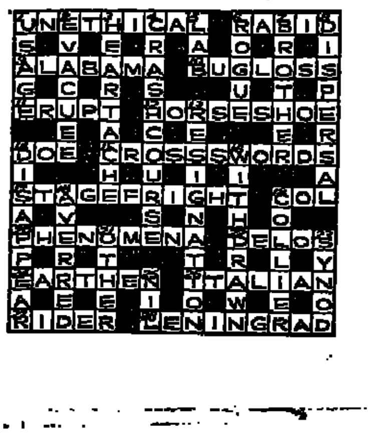
ACROSS

1 Artist sounds happy in his work (8).
9 Fail to prepare adequately for such deliveries? (8).
10 Old King the French regard fondly (4).
11 Statesman to miss out these expressions (12).
13 Composing eight pages is nothing after a pot of ale (6).
14 Old English patter adapted for a musical (8).
15 Excuse for a game in gay assembly (7).
16 Express approval of a race by a junior (7).
20 Assume control and collar the bowling (4,4).
22 Complete diplomat should excel here (6).
23 His records should prove world-shaking (12).
25 Red flower (4).
26 Man of taste, he – English eccentric (8).
27 In dry grass aquatic creature moved unsteadily (8).

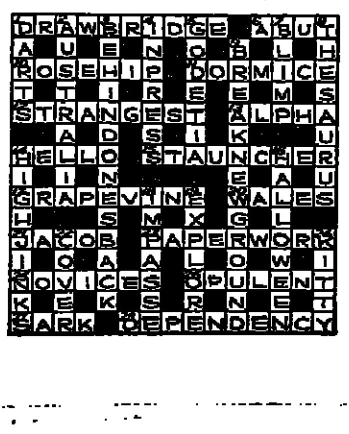
DOWN

2 Sporting event could be a flop (4,4).
3 Rides roughshod over press agencies? (12).
4 Amorous rendering means nothing to Carol (4-4).
5 Polish picture Caesar came across (7).
6 Fancy being in a side at Eton (6).
7 Document to go by (4).
8 Young lady is in early to leave out pound for messenger (8).
12 Lack of accuracy excited a unit on manoeuvres (12).
15 Operating well under pressure (8).
17 Dimwit gets answer to clue in evening (8).
18 Salute CO as ordered. On the cheek? (8).
19 The Bells, for example, allowed as a poem (7).
21 Flower girl (6).
24 A brief moment? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,548



Solution to Puzzle No 17,544



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

PENDICLE
a. A hanging ornament
b. A Scottish croft
c. A subordinate clause

ILLATION
a. Inference
b. Deflation
c. Depression

STEATOPYGOUS
a. Buxom
b. A kind of dinosaur
c. Stubborn

NOG
a. To heckle
b. A mixed drink
c. A wedge

Solutions page 18, column 8

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World *will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: W.O. R Neville, Sgts Mess, RAF, West Drayton, Middlesex; S White, Brown St, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria; L F Hicks, Leighton Rd, Plymouth, Devon; Dr L Rosairo, Wooton Drive, Creswell Manor Farm, Stafford; J Warren, Park Way, Crawley, W Sussex.

Name..................

Address..................

....

....

....

....

Jumbo crossword, page 17

WEATHER

A mild south-westerly airstream will bring rain to all parts during the day. South-eastern districts will start dry but rain already over much of northern and western Britain will extend to remaining parts. Brighter, showery conditions in Northern Ireland will gradually extend south and east across Scotland, Wales and the north and west of England. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: wet and windy.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.

		C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	c	14	57	Malta	c	14	57
Akrotiri	f	13	55	Melb'rne	f	18	64
Alex'dria	c	15	59	Mexico C*	s	21	70
Algiers	f	17	63	Miami*	f	26	79
Amst'dm	c	8	46	Milan	c	5	41
Athens	f	7	45	Montreal*	c	1	34
Belgrade	f	3	37	Moscow	c	-6	21
Berlin	s	1	34	Munich	fg	-2	28
Bermuda*	f	19	66	Nairobi	f	28	82
Biarritz	f	12	54	Naples	f	10	50
Borde'x	f	13	55	N Delhi	s	20	68
Brussels	d	7	45	N York*	s	8	46
Budapst	fg	-1	30	Oslo	c	4	39
B Aires*	f	27	81	Paris	r	6	43
Cairo	s	17	63	Peking	s	9	48
Cape Tn	s	24	75	Perth	f	22	72
C'blanca	s	17	63	Reykjvik	s	-5	23
Chicago*	d	7	45	Rhodes	s	10	50
Cologne	d	4	39	Rio de J	s	27	81
C'phagn	d	3	37	Riyadh	s	21	70
Corfu	s	12	54	Rome	f	14	57
Dubrovnik	c	10	50	Salzburg	s	1	34
Faro	s	15	59	S Frisco*	s	7	45
Florence	c	7	45	S Paulo*	f	25	77
Frankfurt	d	1	34	Sing'por	r	30	86
Geneva	fg	3	37	St'kholm	c	1	34
Gibraltar	s	15	59	Strasb'rg	c	3	37
Helsinki	c	1	34	Sydney	f	21	70
Hong K	c	23	73	Tangier	s	17	63
Innsbrck	s	2	36	Tel aviv	c	13	55
Istanbul	f	2	36	Tenerife	c	21	70
Jeddah	s	27	81	Tokyo	s	17	63
Jo'burg*	c	23	73	Toronto*	c	3	37
Karachi	s	23	73	Tunis	f	12	54
L Palmas	f	21	70	Valencia	f	12	54
Lisbon	f	11	52	Vanc'ver*	c	0	32
Locarno	c	5	41	Venice	c	6	43
L Angels*	s	10	50	Vienna	s	2	36
Luxembg	fg	2	36	Warsaw	c	0	32
Madrid	c	5	41	Wash'ton*	s	11	52
Majorca	s	15	59	Wel'nton	r	17	63
Malaga	s	15	59	Zurich	c	3	37

* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	-	-	5	41	dull
Bridlington	-	-	6	43	cloudy
Cromer	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Lowestoft	-	-	5	41	dull
Clacton	-	0.01	6	43	rain
Southend	-	0.01	6	43	drizzle
Folkestone	-	0.01	7	45	drizzle
Eastbourne	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Brighton	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Worthing	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Littlehmptn	-	0.01	9	48	drizzle
Bognor R	-	-	9	48	dull
Southsea	-	0.02	8	46	cloudy
Sandown	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Shanklin	-	0.02	7	45	cloudy
Bournemouth	-	0.05	9	48	rain
Swanage	-	0.03	9	48	drizzle
Weymouth	-	0.04	10	50	rain
Exmouth	-	0.08	11	52	rain
Teignmouth	-	0.06	10	50	rain
Falmouth	-	0.11	12	54	drizzle
Penzance	-	0.13	11	52	drizzle
Scilly Isles	-	0.44	12	54	rain
Jersey	-	0.01	9	48	cloudy
Newquay	*	*	*	*	*
Ilfracombe	*	0.04	12	54	rain
B'pool Airpt	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Morecambe	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Douglas	-	0.04	9	48	rain
Carlisle	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Nottingham	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Anglesey	-	0.02	10	50	rain
Tenby	-	0.2	11	52	rain
Aberdeen	-	-	8	46	dull
Edinburgh	0.5	-	9	48	cloudy
Eskdalemuir	-	0.07	5	41	drizzle
Glasgow	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Kinloss	0.5	-	11	52	cloudy
Lerwick	-	0.02	8	46	dull
Prestwick	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Stornoway	-	0.05	10	50	dull
Tiree	-	0.13	10	50	rain
Wick	0.8	-	9	48	cloudy

These are Thursday's figures
*Figures not available

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.34	6.8	6.12	6.9	London Bridge	6.24	6.6	7.07	6.6
Aberdeen	5.36	4.0	5.33	4.1	Aberdeen	6.35	3.8	6.35	4.0
Avonmouth	11.16	12.3	11.42	12.8	Avonmouth	—	—	12.08	11.9
Belfast	2.57	3.3	3.11	3.7	Belfast	3.56	3.2	4.10	3.6
Cardiff	11.01	11.4	11.27	10.9	Cardiff	11.53	11.0	—	—
Devonport	9.53	5.3	10.27	4.9	Devonport	10.41	5.1	11.18	4.8
Dover	2.43	6.4	3.17	6.1	Dover	3.35	6.2	4.14	5.9
Falmouth	9.23	5.1	9.57	4.7	Falmouth	10.11	4.9	10.48	4.6
Glasgow	4.35	4.6	4.43	5.1	Glasgow	5.24	4.5	5.34	4.8
Harwich	3.21	3.7	4.02	3.8	Harwich	4.12	3.7	4.57	3.6
Holyhead	2.12	5.0	2.26	5.4	Holyhead	3.12	4.8	3.28	5.2
Hull	10.21	6.7	10.23	7.1	Hull	11.19	6.4	11.18	6.9
Ilfracombe	10.03	8.6	10.27	8.0	Ilfracombe	10.58	8.2	11.23	7.7
Leith	6.43	5.2	7.01	5.3	Leith	7.40	5.0	7.58	5.1
Liverpool	3.03	8.6	3.24	9.0	Liverpool	3.57	8.3	4.19	8.7
Lowestoft	12.41	2.5	1.59	2.2	Lowestoft	1.33	2.5	3.04	2.1
Margate	3.41	4.6	4.27	4.5	Margate	4.28	4.5	5.22	4.3
Milford Haven	10.21	6.7	10.48	6.1	Milford Haven	11.16	6.4	11.44	5.9
Newquay	9.17	6.7	9.45	6.2	Newquay	10.14	6.4	10.43	5.9
Oban	9.51	3.7	10.01	3.2	Oban	11.02	3.5	11.02	3.1
Penzance	9.04	5.4	9.41	4.9	Penzance	9.56	5.2	10.35	4.8
Portland	10.39	2.1	11.23	1.7	Portland	11.28	1.9	—	—
Portsmouth	3.25	4.6	3.33	4.3	Portsmouth	4.23	4.5	4.33	4.1
Shoreham	3.05	6.1	3.24	5.8	Shoreham	3.55	5.9	4.20	5.5
Southampton	2.48	4.4	3.00	4.2	Southampton	3.48	4.3	4.03	4.1
Swansea	10.23	8.7	10.45	8.2	Swansea	11.18	8.3	11.44	7.8
Tees	7.54	4.9	7.57	5.1	Tees	8.54	4.7	8.56	4.9
W'ton-on-Nze	3.15	4.0	3.59	4.0	W'ton-on-Nze	4.07	3.9	4.55	3.8

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.
Times are GMT

TODAY
Sun rises: 8.06 am
Sun sets: 3.56 pm
Moon rises: 11.33 am
Moon sets: 11.35 pm
First Quarter tomorrow

TOMORROW
Sun rises: 8.06 am
Sun sets: 3.57 pm
Moon rises: 11.45 am
Moon sets: 12.57 am
First Quarter 10.01 am

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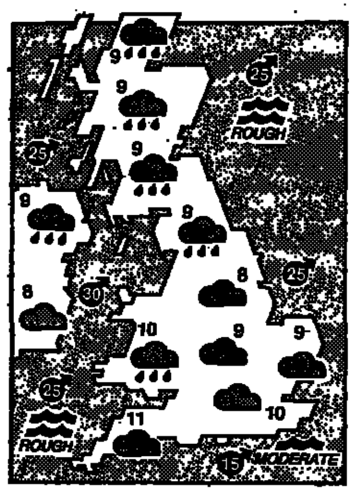
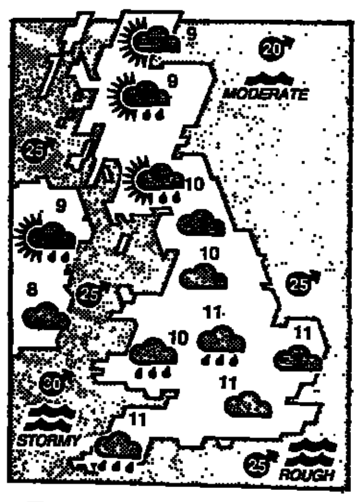
AM



PM



MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F) Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 6.1 hr.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F) Humidity: 6 pm, 87 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01 Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 2.6 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1022.5 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 4.26 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.36 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.13 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.24 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.55 pm to 7.51 am

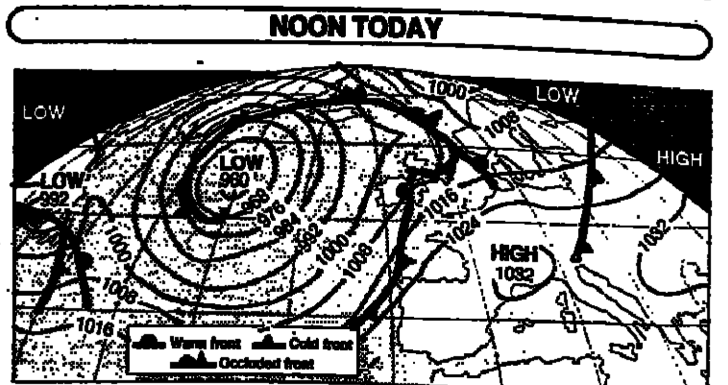
TOMORROW
London 4.27 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.37 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.13 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.25 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 4.55 pm to 7.51 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	s	7	45	Guernsey	s	10	50
B'mgham	s	9	48	Inverness	f	10	50
Blackpool	s	8	46	Jersey	f	10	50
Bristol	f	10	50	London	c	8	46
Cardiff	c	10	50	M'chster	s	8	46
Edinburgh	f	9	48	Newcastle	s	10	50
Glasgow	r	8	46	R'nldsway	s	9	48

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

THE POUND

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.64	2.50	Italy Lira	2265.00	2155.00
Austria Sch	21.75	20.65	Japan Yen	242.00	230.00
Belgium Fr	64.90	61.70	Netherlands Gld	3.48	3.31
Canada $	2.465	2.345	Norway Kr	12.13	11.48
Denmark Kr	11.93	11.33	Portugal Esc	251.75	238.75
Finland Mrk	7.70	7.30	South Africa Rd	4.60	3.90
France Fr	10.43	9.83	Spain Pta	209.25	198.25
Germany Dm	3.10	2.94	Sweden Kr	11.24	10.69
Greece Dr	270.00	250.00	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.39
Hong Kong $	14.55	13.85	USA $	1.895	1.805
Ireland Pt	1.165	1.105	Yugoslavia Dnr	2900.00	2200.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 103.4 (November). London: The *FT* Index closed up 10.5 at 1419.4.

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PART 2

THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 26 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1432.3 (+12.9)

FT-SE 100
1791.1 (+19.7)

Bargains
8251 (20997)

USM (Datastream)
139.27 (+0.41)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8330 (+0.0120)

W German mark
2.9878 (+0.0032)

Trade-weighted
75.6 (+0.2)

Malaysia Mining 'to appeal'

Malaysia Mining Corporation, the state-controlled company, is expected to appeal against a London High Court decision ordering it to repay £12.26 million plus interest to Kleinwort Benson, the British merchant bank, in a case involving a tin loan.

In reply to a Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange query, the company said an appeal would be filed soon.

The merchant bank won its claim of £12.26 million plus interest for the non-payment of a loan given to MMC Metals Ltd, MMC's defunct subsidiary in Britain.

Sale delay

Australia's Federal Court will reconsider in February the proposed sale of John Fairfax interests in the country's sole national news agency and in its main supplier of newsprint.

News Limited, the Australian subsidiary of The News Corporation, has offered to buy the Fairfax stakes in Australian Associated Press and in Australian Newsprint Mills for an estimated Aus$275 million (£108 million). On Christmas Eve, Mr Justice Neaves extended the injunctions he issued on December 21 restraining News from acquiring the Fairfax stake.

Payout missed

Anglo Nordic Holdings has decided not to pay at present the 5.75p dividend for £1 preference shares due next Friday because of disappointing trade in the current year.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	
Dow Jones	1999.67 (−5.97)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Average	22120.94 (−422.43)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	2379.07 (+53.52)
Amsterdam: Gen	214.0 (+0.7)
Sydney: AO	1313.1 (+24.9)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1349.6 (−3.0)
Brussels:	
General	3579.3 (+37.0)
Paris: CAC	289.7 (+4.6)
Zurich: SKA Gen	431.70 (+3.3)
London:	
FT.–A All-Share	905.12 (+9.64)
FT.– "500"	997.02 (+10.98)
FT. Gold Mines	303.7 (−0.7)
FT. Fixed interest	94.67 (−0.03)
FT. Govt Secs	88.45 (+0.35)
Recent Issues	**Page 22**
Closing prices	**Page 27**

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Costain	289½p (+18p)
Moss Bros.	552½p (+18p)
Cable & Wireless	346p (+11p)
Thorn EMI	561p (+10p)
Christies Int.	440p (+12p)
Henderson Admin.	700p (+20p)
RHM	332½p (+10p)
Tate & Lyle	801½p (+16p)
Parker Knoll	635p (+30p)
Reckitt Colman	810p (+20p)
Owners Abroad	85p (+19p)
RTZ	370p (+15p)
Rothmans 'B'	399p (+15p)
Jessups	180p (+20p)
FALLS:	
Body Shop	745p (−10p)
Davies & Newman	390p (−10p)
Doeflex	117½p (−10p)
Warnford	875p (−25p)
Grainger	340p (−10p)
Daejan	745p (−10p)
Closing prices	

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8½%
3-month Interbank $8\frac{15}{16}$-$8\frac{13}{16}$%
3-month eligible bills: $8\frac{13}{32}$-$8\frac{11}{32}$%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 8¾%
Federal Funds 6⅞%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.74-5.73%
30-year bonds 99½-$99\frac{17}{32}$

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.8330	£: $1.8370
£: DM2.9878	$: DM1.6200
£: SwFr2.4251	$: SwFr1.3205
£: FFr10.1090	$: FFr5.5040
£: Yen231.32	$: Yen125.75
£: Index:75.6	$: Index:93.1
ECU £0.692502	SDR £0.759567

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $483.75 pm-Sn/a
close $483.50-484.25 (£264.00-264.50)
New York:
Comex $486.00-486.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb.) .... $16.60 bbl ($17.55)

Stock Market	22	Foreign Exch	26
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☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

British Airways chairman dismisses European challenge to B-Cal deal

King calm on merger threat

By John Bell, City Editor

Lord King, the chairman of British Airways, has dismissed the threat of a legal challenge by the European Commission to the £250 million merger with British Caledonian.

He says in the formal offer to B-Cal shareholders, posted on Christmas Eve, that safeguard measures discussed with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission take account of all the applicable competition rules.

"We consider that the safeguards should meet the concerns raised by the European Commission. Nevertheless, we have agreed to meet with officials of the European Commission early in the New Year to explore the concerns that they have now expressed," he adds.

But the meeting will herald the start of protracted legal moves to hinder or block the creation of a powerful new grouping in European aviation. *The French national* carrier, Air France, has already called for the French air transport industry to join forces to respond to the challenge posed by the British merger.

Air France believes the merger will make BA a tough competitor with lower costs than its main European rivals.

France would remain the only country in Europe where two international airlines coexist, Air France says. It is in favour of closer co-operation with UTA, the private carrier controlled by Chargeurs.

The EEC Commission, meanwhile, has reminded 13 European airlines, including BA and B-Cal, that after the accord on liberalized aviation in Europe they have to end anti-competitive practices.

Officials of the Commission in Brussels are also bracing themselves for a battle. In the course of informal monitoring of the BA/B-Cal merger proposals, they have raised questions about the increased share of routes in Europe that BA will gain. They are also thought to be concerned about the acquisition of take-off slots at Gatwick.

Independent British Airlines have already lodged complaints with the Commission that the BA/B-Cal merger is anti-competitive. These centre on provisions of Article 86 of the Treaty of Rome, which prohibit any abuse of a dominant market position within the EEC.

Lord King and his colleagues will strongly resist any suggestion that the enlarged BA group should divest itself of Europe routes. He will have the backing of senior ministers, who see the merger as a way of ending the uncertainty that has surrounded B-Cal since the BA bid was launched in the summer.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Trade and Industry Minister, has expressed regret over the European Commission's involvement in the merger. Sir Adam Thomson, B-Cal's chairman, confirmed on Christmas Eve that the group faced a number of problems if it wished to remain independent.

In a letter to shareholders contained in the offer document, Sir Adam said the prospect for medium-sized airlines was uncertain when they were ranged against the power of so-called mega-carriers in the US and those that might emerge in Europe and elsewhere. "Your board has made it clear that B-Cal could not continue to stand alone in the future and be expected to produce the levels of profitability that shareholders could legitimately demand," added Sir Adam.

The offer document confirmed that B-Cal is expected to make a trading loss for the financial year to end-October 1987. The loss would, however, be limited by the effects of a pension contributions holiday and exceptional profits from sales of assets.

Under fire: early New Year meeting for BA's Lord King (Photograph by Graham Wood)

Elders proposes £1bn NZ link-up

From Richard Battley
Sydney

Mr John Elliott's Elders IX will create a US$1.9bn (£1.03 billion) world resources company if its proposed merger of Elders Resources, which it controls, and New Zealand Forest Products succeeds. The merger was announced, strategically, on Christmas Eve.

Elders will own 44 to 49 per cent of the new group after assuming control of the debt-ridden Rada Corporation, for a nominal consideration, and its 44 per cent stake in NZFP. It will accept NZFP shares for its 47.5 per cent stake in Elders Resources.

The merger aroused immediate speculation that the next step would be an Elders-NZFP takeover bid for a combined North Broken Hill-Peko-Wallsend. The latter, two of Australia's oldest mining companies, earlier this month agreed to merge in a Aus$1 billion (£392 million) deal.

Under the Elliott proposal, NZFP will offer four of its shares for every five ER shares, with a cash alternative of Aus$2.50 a share that values the company at Aus$560m. The cash offer is a 35 per cent premium over ER's pre-Christmas closing price of Aus$1.85.

If the bid succeeds, the new group will be called Elders Resources. Mr Elliott will be the chairman and Mr Geoff Lord, managing director of ER, will become the chief executive. Both will join the Rada board.

Mr Elliott said the merger would create a "very strong resources company, with NZFP's interests in pulp and paper production and ER's interests in gold, oil and gas."

Elders is expected to acquire 73 per cent of the Rada Corporation, comprising options over 53 per cent for nominal consideration, and a further 20 per cent, currently the subject of negotiations between Elders and New Zealand-base Crown Corporation.

The main hurdle to be overcome appears to be approvals required from the New Zealand Commerce Commission and the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB). Mr Elliott dismissed concerns on both.

- In a related announcement also made on Christmas Eve, Mr Paul Keating, the Australian Treasurer, said he had imposed under FIRB regulations a 90-day prohibition on NZFP increasing its 15 per cent stake in North Broken Hill.

NZFP had applied to lift its stake to 19.96 per cent but the board said it needed more time to consider the application in view of the NBH-Peko-Wallsend merger.

Festive wine sales soar

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Booming 1987 table wine sales have been underlined by high street reports of a last-minute rush at off-licences on Christmas Eve, which is expected to be followed by further stocking up for New Year celebrations.

Spending on wines and spirits is expected to top £2.5 billion over the seasonal period, according to estimates just completed by the Wine and Spirit Association. These also show that spending on wines is now almost at the same level as on spirits.

Two of the biggest off-licence chains — Victoria Wine, part of Allied Lyons, and Whitbread's Threshers — both reported a surge in table wine sales by the end of a hectic Christmas Eve.

Sparkling wines, including champagne, have been selling particularly well, according to Mr Alan Smith, the managing director at Victoria Wine, which has nearly 1,000 outlets.

He added: "Our shops have been very busy, with table wine in particular moving out extremely fast. More expensive wines seem to be selling unusually well."

Table wine sales are expected to show the biggest increase in 1987 of all alcoholic drinks. The latest estimates by the association, based on returns to the end of September, suggest table wine sales are running at about 6 per cent up in volume over a 12-month period, with sparkling wines showing a rise close to 10 per cent.

The number of people drinking wine is also believed to be going up, with the consumer total expected to top 30 million this year for the first time.

Fortified wines, which include port, sherry and vermouth, seem likely to finish 1987 with modest sales increases. These wines on a 12 month comparison showed a small downturn of 1.3 per cent at the end of August, but an underlying trend for increased sales began to show through in September, when the moving annual total saw an increase of 0.8 per cent.

Year-end seasonal sales of all wines are likely to be of more than 350 million bottles, worth about £1.25 billion, according to the association. Spending on table wines is expected to be far the greatest, at about £900 million, with another £100 million going on sparkling wine.

The volume of beer sales this year has largely remained on a plateau. At the end of the first half of this year spirits sales were down 1.2 per cent on annual comparison, although in the second quarter there was a strong recovery

Home-produced spirits such as Scotch whisky and gin, whose performance over the 12 months had lagged a little behind that of imported spirits such as brandies, did best in the second quarter of this year, with an increase of nearly 40 per cent.

The association puts likely spirit sales at 140 million bottles, worth about £1.3 billion, with Scotch whisky the most popular drink and likely to account for about £600 million in sales.

Bid hopes fade at Blue Circle

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement manufacturer, retreated on the stock market on Christmas Eve as hopes began to fade that a takeover bid would be launched for the company.

This followed an unsuccessful dawn raid on the shares earlier this week by a mystery buyer, which prompted speculation that a full-scale offer would soon be made.

However, on Thursday Blue Circle said it had received no indication of who the raider was.

The company said: "Under Rule 2 of the Takeover Code a potential offeror should by now have made an announcement. It is therefore reasonable to believe that there will not be an offer for the company from the raider, or parties acting in concert with it, in the immediate future." The announcement caused the shares to come back from 440p to 436p.

Elf undeterred by Tricentrol defence

By Our City Staff

In a hard-hitting statement issued late on Christmas Eve, the French oil concern, Elf Aquitaine, said the defence document issued to Tricentrol shareholders did nothing to *alter its view that Elf's £135* million takeover offer represented a full and generous price.

Mr James Longcroft, the Tricentrol chairman, had earlier dismissed Elf's bid as "opportunistic and unwelcome". He added that shareholders should ignore the offer so that they — not Elf — would benefit from the underlying value of the company's assets. These include a 17.5 per cent interest in the Wytch Farm field and four sizeable North Sea gas discoveries.

Elf's statement said the underlying value of Tricentrol's assets was substantially less that the 145p per share it was offering, and in its view was closer to 80p per share — the level at which the shares stood in November.

As an operator, Tricentrol had had negligible success in finding oil and gas, said Elf. The main part of its reserves resulted from financial acquisition and the successes of *other operators.* Tricentrol had cut back its expenditure on exploration and appraisal by 70 per cent to £2.3 million, said the Elf statement.

The French group, which is bidding through its British arm, Elf Aquitaine UK Holdings, claimed that Tricentrol needed further significant borrowing before it could achieve increased production or realize the potential of its exploration acreage. The Tricentrol defence document said nothing about the availability of the £350 million finance package which it had been seeking for many months, said Elf.

In the earlier defence document, Mr Longcroft said Tricentrol's production would increase fourfold over the next five years.

Winners (over £25m)

	Price	%
Mersey Docks	280p	+ 803
Ecobric Hldngs	75p	+ 650
Bramall, C.D.	600p	+ 338
Sequa	215p	+ 313
Marina Dev	303p	+ 279
Glentree	70p	+ 249
Blacks Leisure	21p	+ 249
Sims Catering	400p	+ 236
Savage Group	210p	+ 231
Hughes Foods	82p	+ 209

Winners (over £100m)

	Price	%
Eucalyptus Pulp	625p	+ 255
Hunter	955p	+ 189
Aran Energy	77p	+ 157
Tricentrol	169p	+ 149
Britoil	425p	+ 147
Control Sec	45p	+ 146
T Cowie	101p	+ 138
Lee Int	354p	+ 134
Birmid Qualcast	307p	+ 119
Proudfoot, Alex	222p	+ 117

Losers (All companies)

	Price	%
Renishaw	145p	- 59
News Int	250p	- 54
Tozer, Kemsley	74p	- 53
Goode Durrant	112p	- 45
NMC Group	95p	- 44
Waterford Glass	70p	- 44
CASE	56p	- 43
Willis Faber	242p	- 43
WPP	405p	- 41
Aitken Hume	85p	- 40

The year investors learned what goes up can come down

Winners and losers of 1987

By Cliff Feltham

1987 will go down in the record books as the Year of the Great Crash. It was the year investors learned a painful lesson — that what goes up can come down. Only the swift-footed or the lucky escaped the stock market collapse.

On January 1, the *FT All-Share Index* stood at 835.48, and just before the music stopped on October 19, Black Monday, it had risen 41 per cent to 1,182.35.

But the massive collapse in equities wiped out the gains of the great bull market. When the market closed this week the index was just 7 per cent above its opening level, and many investors were still ruing fortunes won and lost.

Yet some investors, by a stroke of luck or good judgement, have kept ahead of the game — as a review of the best-performing shares of the year shows.

The figures, supplied by Datastream and covering companies valued in excess of £25 million — to rule out the very small companies with a limited market in their shares, which can distort price movements — show that **Mersey Docks and Harbour Company** was the outstanding share of 1987.

Its valuable property assets on Merseyside, which could figure in the planned redevelopment of the area, have made it a constant takeover target, helping its shares leap from 31p at the start of the year to *280p — a rise of 803* per cent. At their peak they hit 460p.

CD Bramall, the motor dealer and vehicle hire company, provided a windfall for investors after being taken over by Avis Europe in a £94 million deal, valuing the shares — which had started the year at a lowly 137p — at 600p, a rise of more than 300 per cent. In fact there was a flurry of activity in the motor sector throughout the year, with a number of shares showing sharp rises, although some, like **T Cowie**, suffered from the market collapse.

Until the weekend of October 16, Cowie shares were 290 per cent ahead at 165p, but since then have come back *sharply to 101p — although investors* have still doubled their money over the year.

The best performers of the year are, not surprisingly, companies that have been the subject of takeover bids.

Eucalyptus Pulp Mills, which owns forests and wood mills in Portugal, accepted a £60 million bid from Ibstock Johnsen, the brickmakers, giving holders of the shares a 255 per cent boost to their investment.

Britoil, the subject of a takeover tug of war between BP and Atlantic Richfield, has also been a big mover in a frothy oil sector, where **Tricentrol**, one of the independents, is fighting a £134 million bid from Elf Aquitaine, worth 145p a share. Tricentrol has jumped to 169p

Similarly, **Birmid Qualcast** — under siege from Blue Circle, the cement company — has risen 119 per cent and the shares, now at 307p, could go higher before the battle is over.

Among the larger listed companies, **Rothmans International** has surged ahead on the back of perennial bid talk and strong trading. The shares finish the year more than double the 179p price they stood at in January.

Other successes of the year have included **Brent Walker** — the fast-expanding leisure empire created by Mr George Walker, the former boxer — enlarged by the takeover of casinos and London's Trocadero. Its shares have almost doubled.

But there were some big casualties in 1987 — among them some of the stock market's one-time favourites.

Sir Phil Harris's high street retailing group **Harris Queensway** was showing a 15 per cent fall before the crash, but since then disappointing trading news and key management reshuffles have badly upset *analysts' confidence in the group. The* shares have gone into steep decline, finishing the year 40 per cent down.

Other shares to suffer from the market fall-out have been those dependent on earnings from the United States.

Hardest hit have been companies such as Mr Martin Sorrell's **WPP Group**, the advertising company that during the year mounted its audacious takeover of the world's best known advertising agency, J Walter Thompson. As a result WPP shares have plunged more than 40 per cent to 405p.

Jaguar, a stock that had appeared to be in permanent overdrive, turning out highly acclaimed models for the American market, also shuddered to a halt, ending at about 327p, another 40 per cent decline over the year.

News International, a stock market leader in 1986, has also found itself one of the main casualties of the year, a victim of the weakness of the Australian dollar and the collapse in the Australian stock market, sliding by more than 50 per cent.

But the wooden spoon for the worst-*performing share goes to* **Renishaw**, the makers of machine tool measurement probes. Disappointing profits for last year, coupled with heavy costs in research and development, depressed the shares before the crash — and there was little support when the really heavy selling got under way. So at the end of the year they were down 59 per cent. Can things get any worse in 1988?

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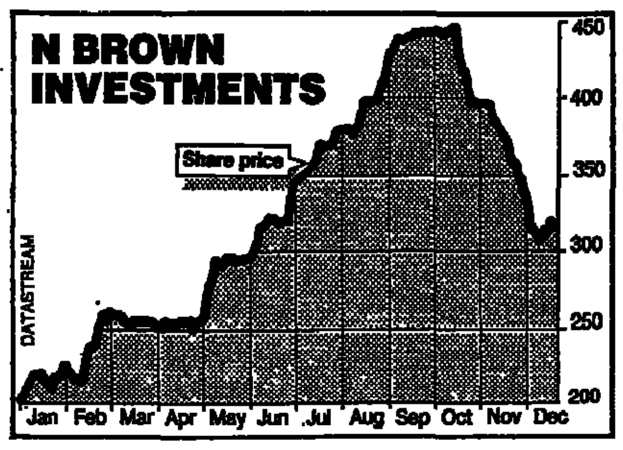
TEMPUS

Time to take stock after the roller-coaster ride of 1987



Even those not directly concerned with world stock markets will have learned the salutary lesson this year – shares can go down as well as up.

The British equity market, having moved up relentlessly for the last 10 years, and particularly dramatically in the first nine months of 1987, fell back in October with a speed and severity never seen before.

The fall-out was international and the market is only now beginning to show signs of consolidating. It is still *too early to say whether* investors' confidence has been irrevocably damaged, but it seems certain that high risk investments will be treated with greater circumspection in future.

Not suprisingly, against this background, the shares chosen by Tempus for its 1987 portfolio have ended the year in a rather mixed state. After a poor start to the year, the portfolio was nicely ahead at the half-way mark.

The investor who bought the portfolio at the start of the year, and had been astute enough to identify the top of each individual share and then sold, would have secured an average 63.78 per cent appreciation.

But the October crash cost *the portfolio dear, and in* many cases earlier gains evaporated.

This is one of the penalties of seeking performance in what was a bull market.

So four out of eight have lost ground in absolute terms, and only two managed to outperform the market.

So what was the background to how they all fared? **Borland International**, the California-based software house, quoted on the Unlisted Securites Market, has had a chequered year. Delays in the shipment of new products led to a dramatic reduction in profit forecasts at the turn of the year.

But the price recovered as the new products were well received, touching a high of 291p. Other positive moves were the merger with fellow software house, Ansa. Profit-taking and exposure to the US dollar, however, have caused the shares to come right back. But the fundamentals remain intact.

N Brown Group, the mail order company chaired by Mr David Alliance of Coats Viyella fame, whose family has a *controlling interest, has* developed a niche position in this increasingly attractive market, as confirmed by Next's acquisition of Grattan and Sears' proposed takeover of Freemans.

Profits growth has been helped by several strategic acquisitions, while a narrow market in the the shares means any positive interest in the stock moves the price disproportionately.

Financial services are a growing activity for the company. There has been a one-for-one scrip issue during the year.

The flamboyant behaviour of Sir Ralph Halpern, the **Burton Group** chairman, combined with worries after the *Guinness fiasco about the* methods used by aggressive companies making takeovers, left the shares unsupported.

Trading at Burton, however, is good, with much of the rationalization benefits from the revamped Debenhams stores coming through to the bottom line. The strategy of fragmenting the high street is proving successful.

The share stands at a discount to the market and the sector, and is on a lower price-earnings ratio than 10 years ago when the business was making losses. Burton's name recurs again and again on the lips of followers of the stores sector as one whose day will come.

The good record and above-average returns at the revitalized steel foundries group, **William Cook**, were dented this year. The takeover of Weir Foundries, expected to give Cook's management something to get their teeth into, proved indigestible.

Not only did the integration itself prove more problematic than expected, but the closure of the Caterpillar plant in Glasgow, an important customer, also damaged the order book. With luck, the management should eventually win through.

Despite the introduction of new drugs, the phenomenal success of Glaxo's predominant drug and anti-ulcer product, Zantac, continues to obsess investors. So worries recurred about the likely source of future earnings as Zantac sales reach maturity.

Sharply higher research and development costs, reduced growth in the rest of the *business, and currency* exposure have dragged analysts' forecasts lower.

Yet the health care sector is frequently highlighted for its defensive characteristics in case of a period of prolonged recession. Glaxo has much convincing to do, however, to win back its place in investors' hearts.

The fortunes of **Guinness** have been well chronicled, but the shares have been more affected by concern about financial burdens which, pending legal proceedings, could be placed upon the group.

Nevertheless, underlying trading remains good, and the new management team is consolidating the company's strong position in the international drinks arena.

Second Market Investment Company, which invests in the French equivalent of the Unlisted Securities Market, has *suffered along with the rest of* the French equity market. There is little prospect of a recovery until confidence in France picks up.

Overall buoyancy in the building materials market and further operating efficiencies at **Steetley** pushed the shares up. The outlook remains positive. There was a one-for-one scrip issue.

An investment of £8,000 – £1,000 in each stock – would now be worth £6,935.50.

Tempus will not be alone in wishing a speedy close to the year.

Shortly, Tempus will be addressing a clean slate and choosing safe, defensive stocks for a lower profile portfolio for 1988.

SHARES OF 1987

	Start price	High	Close	% change
Borland Int	134	291	100	–25.37
N Brown	202½	447½	315	+55.56
Burton	285	357	220	–22.81
Wm Cook	219	269	120	–45.21
Glaxo	1048	1845	1059	+1.05
Guinness	288	388	295	+2.43
2nd Market Inv	182	238	103	–43.41
Steetley	227.5	415	332	+45.93

Average portfolio change: –3.98pc.

Industry failings condemned by report

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

A damning report on British manufacturing industry shows that many factories are failing on almost all counts to achieve the cost, quality and performance levels of their big overseas competitors.

Just published, the report, from Ingersoll Engineers, the international manufacturing management consultancy, says of British industry: "There is little planning, little accountability in the right places, and little analysis of times and costs."

British industry, the report estimates, holds £42 billion in inventory. The application of proven techniques could halve that amount, the report says, improve the level of service, and reduce material costs by up to 15 per cent a year.

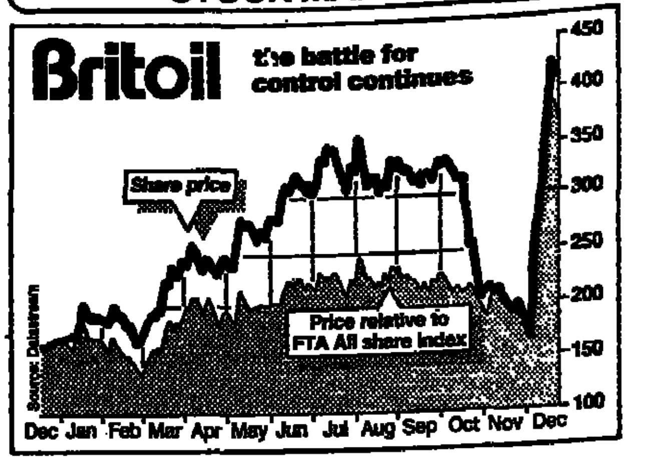
Ingersoll says that while materials and their associated overheads usually account for 50 to 60 per cent of the manufactured cost of engineering goods, they are rarely tackled consistently.

The survey found that inventory levels were considered to be too high by nearly all respondents, but there had been little significant overall reduction in the past three years.

A quarter of respondents to the survey, which covered a wide range of companies in the engineering, metals and electronics sectors, did not know their transport costs.

The report concludes: "Either British industry is paying lip service to the principles which will gain world class performance, or there is a genuine gap between strategic thinking and the actual skills required to implement change."

STOCK MARKET



Spending spree pushes back crash memory

By Geoffrey Foster

A shortened pre-Christmas trading session was enough for investors to continue their seasonal spending spree and help push the FT-SE 100 share index towards the psychological 1,800 level.

The index closed 19.7 points higher at 1,791.1 on *Thursday* and has now risen 211.2 points, or 13.4 per cent since the end of November. The FT 30 share index closed 12.9 points up at 1,432.3.

The market has done its best to push the horror stories and the memory of that Black Monday in October well into the background as confidence has gradually been restored by more favourable news on the domestic economic front and a sudden spate of takeover activity.

The recovery on Wall Street – the Dow Jones industrial average closed above the 2,000 level for the first time since November 2 on Wednesday – following the final US congressional approval of the deficit reduction package and the Group of Seven statement on the dollar helped sentiment.

Closing gains were again accentuated in most cases by a shortage of stock, but the better price movements were usually confined to stocks with a speculative flavour.

Gilt-edged stocks were a *touch higher in thin trading.*

Metal Box, the diversified packaging group, rose a further 8p to 218p amid rising speculation that someone is stalking the company and building up a stake.

Metal Box shares virtually halved in value during the market crash to 153p and were not helped in November when the company reported a rather disappointing set of interim results which moved one leading analyst to describe it as a "safe, dull and unfashionable company."

Obviously someone thinks the group is an attractive proposition and many dealers believe that the buyer who has been doing the rounds of late will not wait much longer before declaring a strategic stake.

Pilkington, Britain's biggest glass manufacturer, was another company to attract speculative interest on hopes that it will not remain independent much longer, closing 5p higher at 240p.

Pilkington successfully warded off an unwelcome £1.2 billion bid (540p a share) from *BTR*, the industrial conglomerate, earlier in the year, but in recent weeks the market has been convinced that BTR will try again early next year.

Several analysts have also prompted the recent strong rise in the shares by issuing "buy" notices stating that the shares are cheap on fundamentals alone.

The Christmas break gives hard-pressed *oil* dealers time to sit back and hope that the current imbroglio on **Britoil** takeover will soon sort itself out.

The Takeover Panel gave BP the green light to proceed with its 450p-a-share bid for Britoil on Wednesday but the Government immediately retaliated by reaffirming that it would use its golden share to block any attempts to take control of Britoil's board.

Meanwhile, waiting in the wings is Atlantic Richfield, the US company which sits on a 20.4 per cent stake in Britoil and has announced its intention to counter any full bid with a bid of its own.

So with BP planning to make a full bid for Britoil early *in the new year despite the* Government's displeasure, clearly the excitement is far from over, with dealers still unable to predict the outcome.

Shares of Britoil were a lot quieter, but 8p higher at a new peak for the year of 435p awaiting further developments.

London and Scottish Marine Oil, the independent oil company, rose 5p to 290p, also on bid speculation. The BP-Britoil drama has served to excite other speculative favourites in the oil sector and dealers believe it will not be long before RTZ, the mining conglomerate, which holds a 29 per cent stake in Lasmo will eventually bid for the company.

Lasmo recently *increased* its stake in **Enterprise Oil** to 25.27 per cent

● Shares in Owners Abroad, Britain's fourth largest travel company, leapt from 66p to 85p, on Christmas Eve, on speculation that a takeover bid is imminent. The board rushed out a statement noting the "substantial" price increase but added that it was not aware of the reason for the movement.

● Christies International, the auctioneers, held firm at 440p with dealers expecting a takeover battle early in the new year. A large buyer has been stalking the shares of late and both a Swiss conglomerate and Philips, the auctioneers, are said to be interested in making a *full bid.*

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Aid Restaurants	60 +2
Brit Pet P/P	72½ +1
Butte Mining (100p)	130 –5
Eurotunnel	240
Eurotunel Wrnts	14½
Fairway London	75 –1
Gaelic Res	5½
Hard Rock Cafe	123
Do 'A'	83
Hatfield Est (100p)	110
How Group	78
ISA Intl (80p)	98
Intl Colour	98
Lloyd Thomp (170p)	147
Mayne Nickless	175 +2
Nestor-BNA (75p)	80
Paragon Comms	93
Power Corp	85
Record (88p)	58
Rolls-Royce (170p)	127 +6
Rural Plan	93 –2
Sec Archives	160
Shaftsbury (180p)	120
Shorco	107
Sykes-Pickavant	119
Tomorrows Leisure	31
Tubular Exhib	20
URS Intl	46
USDC Inv	108
Wilshaw Secs	29
RIGHTS ISSUES	
Bioisolates N/P	2
Biomechanics N/P	12 +1
ERA Gp N/P	38 +2
Gr West 6% N/P	
Lendu Hldgs N/P	13
Michael J N/P	
Maxiprint N/P	10 +2
North Sea N/P	1¾

(Issue price in brackets).

APPOINTMENTS

Grindlays Bank: **Sir John Thompson** joins the board.

Towers Perrin: **Mr Lawrence Clark, Mr Bruce Moss, Mr Jeff Chapman, Mr Jamil Husain, Mr Terry Clarke, Ms Nancy Einck, Mr Ashok Gupta** and **Mr Nigel Ratcliffe** join the partnership.

Haiste Group: **Mr Harvey Roberts** is to succeed **Mr Hugh Brooksbank** as deputy chairman. **Mr Andrew Fountain** becomes managing director, Haiste International.

Davy Forge: **Mr Kevin Boyce** becomes technical director and **Mr John Palmer** commercial director.

Murray Johnstone: **Mr Nicolas McAndrew** becomes managing director from March 1, succeeding **Mr Raymond Johnstone** who will become executive chairman. **Mr J Watherston** becomes deputy chairman. **Mr C Dobson, Mr C Nicholls, Mr R Scullion, Mr I Tulloch** and **Mr W White** join the board of Murray Johnstone. **Mr C Adamson, Mr C Biggart, Mr K Cox, Mr C Dobson, Mr J McKechnie** and **Mr P Montgomery** join the board of Murray Johnstone Investment Management. **Mr P Forrester, Mr J Cuthrie** and **Mr E Kease** join the board of Murray Johnstone Pension Management. **Mr A Fraser** and **Mr A MacLellan** join the board of Murray Johnstone Developments.

Clark Whitehill Josolyne: **Mr John Hurlbut** joins the partnership from January 2.

Copyright Licensing Agency: **Mr John Goldsmith** joins the board.

Tarmac: **Mr Anthony Bamford** becomes a non-executive director from January 1.

Frazer-Nash: **Mr Derek Pickering** joins the board from January 1.

Piccadilly Radio: **Mr Derek Boothman** becomes chairman from mid-February.

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey	2,173	Coats	1,523	Land Sec	369	Rowntree	134
Alld-Lyons	2,840	CU	1,436	Laporte	53	Royal Bank	2,089
Amstrad	3,555	Cons Gold	276	L&G	2,941	Royal Ins	1,030
ASDA	2,150	Cookson	432	Lloyds	2,814	Saatchi	920
AB Foods	150	Courtaulds	491	Lonrho	1,360	Sainsbury	240
Argyll	3,152	Dalgety	477	Lucas	853	Scot & N	590
BAA	567	Dee	2,790	Magnet	743	Sears	2,541
BET	434	Dixons	1,084	M&S	2,382	Sedgwick	456
BTR	2,978	ECC	148	Maxwell Cm	685	Shell	1,487
BAT	1,270	Enterprise	1,918	MEPC	507	Smith & N	1,560
Barclays	3,225	Ferranti	10,657	Metal Box	1,667	STC	2,819
Bass	355	Fisons	1,824	Midland	1,645	Stan Chart	459
Beecham	1,830	Gen Acc	275	NatWest	967	Storehse	1,364
Beazer	860	GEC	5,,571	Next	669	Sun Alnce	846
BICC	1,446	Glaxo	3,085	Nth Food	1,165	T & N	41
Blue Arrow	2,678	Globe	6,838	P&O	715	Tarmac	998
Blue Circle	4,519	Granada	1,075	Pearl	782	Tate & Lyle	319
BOC	962	Grand Met	1,888	Pearson	482	TSB	2,608
Boots	3,051	GUS 'A'	466	Pilkington	1,387	Tesco	2,633
BPB	1,535	GRE	381	Plessey	830	Thorn EMI	1,279
Br Aero	900	GKN	174	Prudential	547	Trafalgar	4,005
Br Airways	802	Guinness	1,671	Racal	3,427	THF	2,317
Br Comm	323	Hamm 'A'	400	Rk Hovis	319	Ultramar	1,000
Br Gas	7,701	Hanson	7,208	Rank	862	Unigate	318
Br Petrol	14,783	Hawker	525	R&C	307	Unilever	803
Br Telecm	5,722	Hawley	1,474	Redland	390	United Bis	656
Britoil	20,140	Hillsdown	1,899	Reed	609	Utd News	368
Bunzl	1,096	IMI	338	Reuters	749	Wellcome	575
Burmah	164	ICI	2,049	RMC Gp	140	Whitbrd	880
Burton	6,228	Jaguar	4,120	RTZ	2,447	Willis Fab	371
C&W	4,011	Lasmo	1,268	R-Royce	4,754	Woolworth	1,358
Cadbury	2,522	Ladbroke	820	Rothmn 'B'	75	Equities page 27	

TOKYO

Nikkei falls 422 on weaker dollar

(Reuter) – Share prices fell in moderate trading on Christmas Day, but ended above their lows due to afternoon blue-chip buying, brokers said. The weaker dollar and uncertainty about the global economic outlook because of the huge US budget and trade deficits prompted selling, they said.

The Nikkei average fell 422.43 points, or 1.87 per cent, to 22,120.94, after hitting a morning low of 21,987.87. The index had dropped 150.48 points on Thursday.

Declines led rises almost four to one, on turnover of 550 million shares against 400 million on Thursday.

Yesterday's fall was the biggest since November 10.

Securities house, communications, bank, real estate, pharmaceutical, airline, railway/bus, insurance, service and construction shares declined. No sectors advanced.

Unstable currency markets and uncertainty about the outlook for the US twin deficits has created a market environment that is unable to support the recent public sales of NTT and JAL shares, brokers said.

Trading was dull due to investor unwillingness to take sizeable positions during the end-year holiday season.

NEW YORK

Dow slips under 2,000 after listless trading

(Reuter) – Wall Street gave a dull and listless performance on Thursday, closing lower as investors virtually ignored the market on Christmas Eve. A weak dollar, despite an agreement by the Group of Seven countries to co-operate in steadying the currency, lent a slight negative bias to the market, traders said.

The Dow Jones industrial average defined a narrow trading range early in the session and deviated only a few points for the rest of the day. It closed at 1,999.67, down 5.97 points.

"The trading rooms are quiet," one trader said. Volume slid to 109 million shares, the slowest day since November 27, the day after Thanksgiving, when 86 million were traded.

"The activity that occurred today was telescoped into the first few hours of the session and the rest of the day was boring," said Mr Larry Wachtel, an analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities.

He was hesitant to predict the market's direction next week.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 14	December 31	March 17	March 28

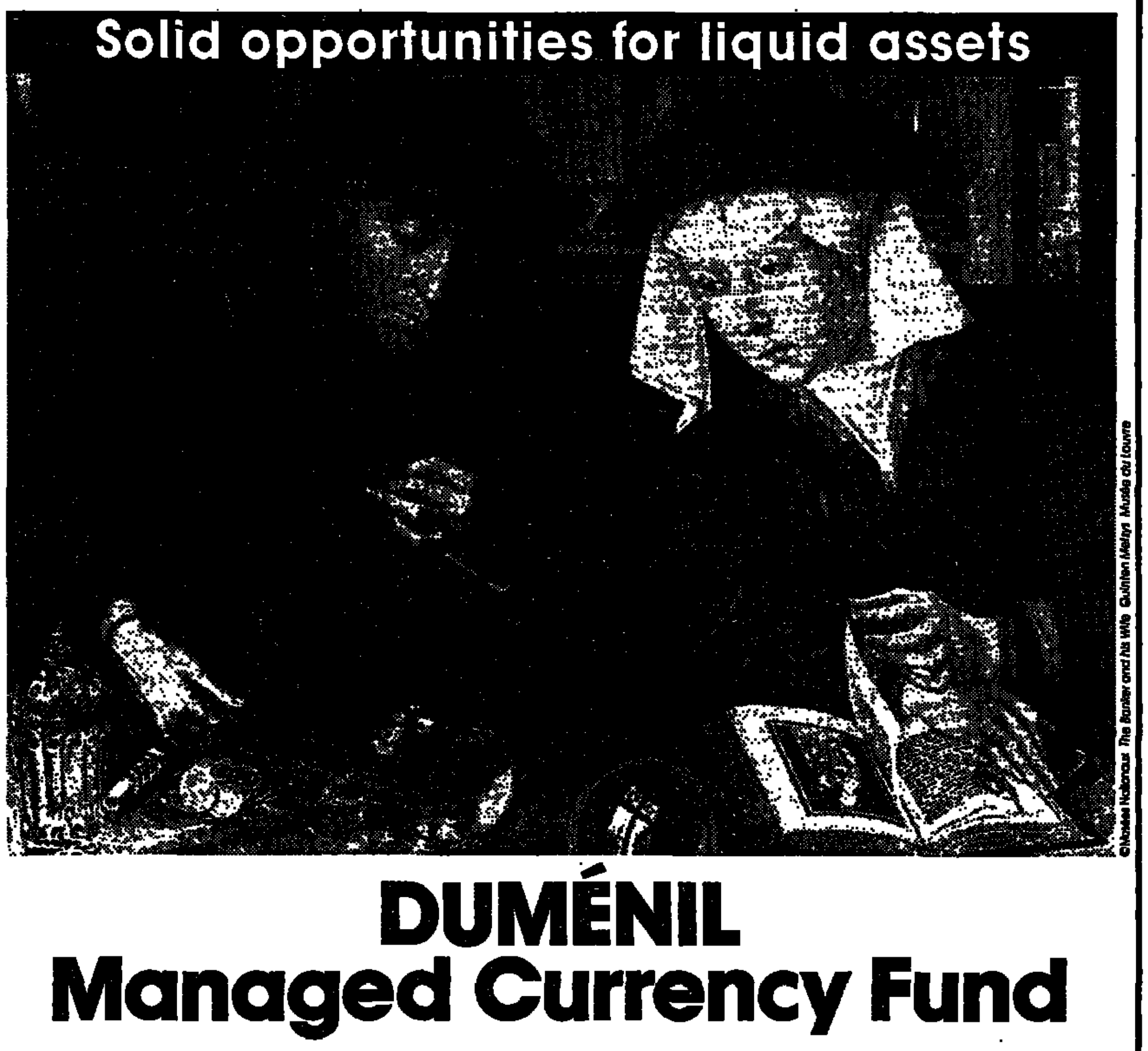
Call options were taken out on: 24/12/87 Bulmer HP, Hogg Robinson, Barratt Devs., Jaguar, Marks & Spencer, Bryant Hldgs., Thomas Robinson Group

WALL STREET

	Dec 24	Dec 23		Dec 24	Dec 23		Dec 24	Dec 23
AMR Cp	37%	37%	Firestone	32%	32¼	Pepsico	33%	34¼
ASA	50%	50	Fst Chicago	18%	19%	Pfizer	51	51½
Aetna Life	44%	45%	Fst Int Bncp	38%	38%	Phelps Dod	46	45¼
Allied Signal	29	29	Fst Penn C	8%	8%	Philip Mor	89%	89%
Allis Chlm	1¼	1¼	FT Wachva	35%	35%	Philip Ptrl	13¼	12%
Alcoa	50%	50%	Ford Motor	78%	78%	Polaroid	24%	25¼
Amax Inc	20%	21¼	GAF Cp	45%	45¼	Primerica	25%	25%
AMR Hess	26%	26%	GTE Cp	35%	35¼	Proct Gble	87¼	87%
Am Brands	43%	43%	Gen Cp	22	66%	Pub S E G	23%	23%
Am Cynmd	43¼	43%	Gn Dynam	48%	48%	Raytheon	66¼	67%
Am Ele Pwr	25%	25%	Gen Electric	46	46%	Rynlds Met	48%	49%
Amexs	23¼	23%	Gen Inst	32%	32%	Rockwell Int	18%	18
Am Family	14	14%	Gen Mills	50	50	Royal Dutch	113%	112
Am Home	72	73	Gen Motors	63¼	62%	SFE Sopac	49	49
Am Int Grp	61½	62	Gen Pub Ut	27%	27%	Sara Lee	36%	36¼
Am Stand	37%	38	Genesco	3%	3%	Schlumb	31%	32
Am Telph	27%	28%	Georgia Pac	36%	36%	Scott Pap	70%	70½
Amoco Cp	68%	68%	Gillette	31%	31½	Seagram	57%	57%
Armco Steel	11%	11%	Goodrich	42%	43	Sears Roeb	34½	34%
Asarco Inc	28%	28%	Goodyear	61%	62	Shell Trans	78%	77%
Ashland Oil	59%	59%	Gould Inc	11%	12%	Singer	46½	44
Atl Richfld	71%	71¼	Grace Co	24%	23%	Smith Beck	49%	49%
Avon Prod	25%	26%	Grt Atl Pac	36%	37	Sony Cp	38%	38%
Bk Boston	22%	23%	Greyhnd	28%	28%	Sth Cal Edi	31%	31¼
Bank NY	27%	27%	Gruman	18%	18%	SW Bell	34%	34%
Bankamer	7	7%	Gulf & West	73%	74¼	Squibb	62%	61%
Bkrs Tst NY	31	31%	Heinz	42%	43¼	Sterl Drug	55¼	54%
Baxter	22%	23	Hercules	46%	47	Stevens JP	29%	29%
Beth Steel	18%	18%	Hewlett Pk	58%	57¼	Sun Comp	53%	53½
Boeing	39%	39%	Honeywell	58	58%	TRW Inc	49%	50¼
Boise Casc	71¼	71¼	IC Ind	31½	31%	Teledyne	310¼	315%
Borden	50%	50	ITT Cp	46%	46%	Tenneco	41¼	41%
Bristl Meyr	43%	43%	INCO	22	22	Texaco	38%	38
BP	57%	57¼	Ing Rand Wl	35¼	35%	Tex Eastn	21%	21¼
Brunswick	15%	15¼	Inland Steel	29%	29%	Texas Inst	56	58
Burl Nth	65%	66%	IBM	119%	119¼	Tex Util	27%	27%
CBS	162%	161¼	Int Paper	44	44%	Textron	21¼	21¼
CMS Engy	13%	13%	Irving Bk	43%	43%	Travelers	35¼	35%
CPC Int	41¼	41½	Jhsn & Jhsn	79%	79%	USG	30	29%
CSX Cp	30	30%	K Mart	30%	30%	USX Cp	32%	32%
Camp Soup	27½	27¼	Kaisertech	11¼	11%	Unilever Plc	37%	37
Can Pacific	15%	15%	Kerr McGee	36%	36	Un Carbide	22	21%
Caterpillar	61¼	61¼	Kimbrly Clrk	50%	50%	Un Pac Cp	58¼	56%
Centrl SW	29%	28%	Kraft	48%	48%	Unisys Cp	34½	34%
Champion	35¼	35%	Kroger	25%	25%	Utd Brands	45%	46
Chase Man	21%	21½	LTV Cp	2%	2%	Utd Tech	33%	34%
Chem NY	23	23¼	Litton	73%	73%	Unocal	30%	29%
Chevron	40¼	40	Lockheed	36%	37%	Walter Jim	59%	59%
Chrysler	23%	23%	Lucky Str	27	28%	Warn Lamb	69%	68%
Citicorp	18%	18%	Man H'nver	24%	26%	Wells Far	43%	44%
Clark Eq	25%	25%	Manville	2%	2%	Westg El	52¼	51%
Coca Cola	39%	39%	Mapco	48%	48%	Weyerhsr	39%	39%
Colgate	39	38%	Marriott	28%	28%	Whirlpool	24%	24½
Columb Gas	39%	39%	Mt Marrieta	41%	42¼	Woolworth	35%	35
Cmb'tn Eng	29%	29%	Masco	22%	22%	Xerox Cp	59	59%
Cmwlth Edi	28¼	29¼	Mcdonalds	45%	45%	Zenith	15%	15%
Cons Edis	42¼	42%	McDonnell	59%	60			
Consol Ng	36%	37¼	Mead Cp	34¼	34%			
Cont Data	22%	23	Merck	160%	161¼			
Corning Gl	48%	49¼	Minsta Mng	65%	66%			
Crane	22¼	22	Mobil	39%	40%			
Curtiss Wrt	47	47%	Monsanto	83%	83			
Data Genl	24¼	25%	Morgan Jp	33%	34			
Deere Co	36%	36%	Motorola	51	51%			
Delta Airl	38%	38%	NCR	65%	64%			
Detroit Edi	13%	14	NL Indstrs	5%	5¼			
Digital Eq	137%	137%	Nat Distill	71¼	71¼			
Disney	62%	61¼	Nat Md Ent	18%	18%			
Dow Chem	92¼	92%	Nat Semi	12%	13			
Dresser Ind	26%	26%	Norfolk Sth	26%	26%			
Dupont	87%	88	NW Bancrp	38%	39¼			
Duke Pwr	43	43	Occid Petl	24%	24¼			
East Kodak	50¼	50%	Ogden Cp	29	29%			
Eaton Cp	76%	77%	Olin Cp	41½	42%			
Emerson El	34%	34¼	PPG Ind	34%	35			
Emery Air	5%	5¼	Pac Gas El	16%	16¼			
Exxon	40%	40%	Pan Am	2%	3%			
Fazah Inc	7%	7%	Penney JC	45%	44%			
Fedders	6%	6%	Pennzoil	74%	74%			

CANADIAN PRICES

Agnico Eag	n.a	23%
Alcan Alum	n.a	35%
Algoma Stl	n.a	15
Can Pacific	n.a	20%
Cominco	n.a	15%
Con Bathrst	n.a	18%
Hawk S Can	n.a	20%
Hud Bay M	n.a	18%
Imasco	n.a	25%
Imperial Oil	n.a	54%
Int Pipe	n.a	43
Royl Trstco	n.a	13%
Seagram	n.a	74%
Shelco 'A'	n.a	22%
Thmsn N 'A'	n.a	27%
Varity Cp	n.a	3.25
WCT	n.a	16%
Weston	n.a	31%



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صكذا من الاهل

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded return at tax rates 27%	45%	60%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS							
Ordinary Dep A/c[1]	2.50	2.52	1.90	1.38	1 min	0-7 day	—
Girobank	2.50	2.52	1.90	1.38	1 min	7 day	01-600 6020
Fixed Term Deposits:							
National Westminster	5.50	5.50	4.14	3.01	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
" " "	6.00	6.00	4.52	3.29	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
Midland	5.17	5.17	3.90	2.83	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
" " "	5.60	5.60	4.22	3.07	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000
BUILDING SOCIETIES							
Ordinary A/c	4.00	4.04	3.04	2.21	1 min	—	—
Britannia[2]	6.15	6.15	4.63	3.37	250 min	—	—
Bristol & West[2]	7.30	7.30	5.50	4.00	500 min	—	—
Bristol & West[2]	7.55	7.55	5.69	4.14	5,000 min	—	—
Bristol & West[2]	7.80	7.80	5.88	4.27	10,000 min	—	—
Bristol & West[2]	8.10	8.10	6.10	4.44	25,000 min	—	—
Nationwide Non-Resid[2]	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	1 min	—	—
MONEY FUNDS							
Aitken Hume Monthly Inc	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	1,000 min	—	01-638 6070
Allied Arab HICA	6.11	6.29	4.74	3.45	3,000 min	—	01-629 6802
Bank Of Scotland	5.75	5.91	4.45	3.24	2,500 min	—	01-626 8060
Barclays High Rate Dep	5.75	5.88	4.43	3.22	1,000 min	—	01-626 1567
" " "	5.88	6.01	4.53	3.29	10,000 min	—	01-626 1567
Britannia High Interest	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	2,500 min	—	01-588 2777
Citibank Money Mkt Plus‡	5.50	5.64	4.25	3.09	2,000 min	—	01-741 4941
HFC Trust & Savings	7.50	7.64	5.76	4.19	5,000 min	—	01-236 8391
Henderson Cheque A/c	5.75	5.91	4.45	3.24	2,500 min	—	01-638 5757
L & G High Int Deposit	6.25	6.34	4.78	3.47	1,000 min	1 mth	01-388 3211
Lloyds Investment A/c‡[5]	6.40	6.40	4.82	3.51	5,000 min	3 mth	01-407 1000
Lloyds HICA‡	4.80	4.91	3.70	2.69	1,000 min	—	01-407 1000
M&G HICA	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	2,500 min	—	01-626 4588
Midland HICA	5.50	5.61	4.23	3.07	2,000 min	—	0742 52800
" "	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	10,000 min	—	0742 52800
Nat West Special Reserve	5.75	5.88	4.43	3.22	2,000 min	—	01-726 1000
" " "	5.88	6.00	4.52	3.29	10,000 min	—	01-726 1000
Oppenheimer Money Mngmt	5.83	5.96	4.49	3.27	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
" " "	5.74	5.88	4.43	3.22	10,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
Phillips & Drew HICA	6.02	6.16	4.64	3.38	2,500 min	—	01-628 9771
Provincial Trust Chq A/c	*6.38*	*6.77*	*5.10*	*3.71*	*1,000 min*	—	*061-9289011*
Royal Bk Of Scot Prem A/c	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	2,500 min	—	031-5570201
S & P Classic	5.70	5.87	4.42	3.22	500 min	—	0708 766966
Schroder Wagg	5.46	5.60	4.22	3.07	2,500 min	—	0705 827733
Tyndall Call	6.08	6.22	4.67	3.41	2,500 min	—	0272 732241
Tyndall 7-day	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	2,500 min	—	0272 732241
UDT 7-day	6.02	6.16	4.64	3.38	5,000 min	7 day	01-626 4661
Western Trust	6.02	6.19	4.66	3.39	2,500 min	1 mth	0752 261161
NATIONAL SAVINGS							
Ordinary A/c[3]	6.00	6.17	4.65	3.38	1-10,000	8 day	041-6494555
Investment A/c*	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond*	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
*Deposit Bond**	*10.50*	*7.67*	*5.78*	*4.20*	*100-100,000*	*3 mth*	*041-6494555*
33rd Issue Cert[4]†	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000	8 day	091-3864900
Yearly Plan†	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900
General Extension Rate†	6.51	6.51	6.51	6.51			
Retail Price Index: Nov	103.4	103.4	103.4	103.4			
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS							
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	1,000 min	1 yr	0992 30488
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.61	5.43	1,000 min	2 yrs	0992 30488
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.65	5.49	1,000 min	3 yrs	0992 30488
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.68	5.55	1,000 min	4 yrs	0992 30488
Financial Assurance	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	2,000 min	5 yrs	01-367 6000
LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS							
Northampton	6.58	6.58	4.96	3.61	500 min	1 yr	01-407 2767
Kirklees	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min	2 yrs	01-407 2767
Kirklees	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min	3 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	4 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	5 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	6 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	7 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	8 yrs	01-407 2767
Taff Ely	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min	9 yrs	01-407 2767
Taff Ely	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-407 2767
FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS							
Sterling	7.71	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
US Dollar	6.73	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
Yen	3.51	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
D Mark	2.66	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
French Franc	7.59	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
Swiss Franc	1.87	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741

*Interest taxable, paid gross † Tax free ‡ Higher returns for larger balances [1] All major banks- Nat West & Barclays 2.63% [2] Societies chosen based on high street presence, higher rates can sometimes be obtained from smaller societies - contact Chase de Vere Moneyline 01-404 5766 [3] 3 per cent for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less [4] Additional holdings up to £5,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates [5] Charge for instant access Rates as at December 23

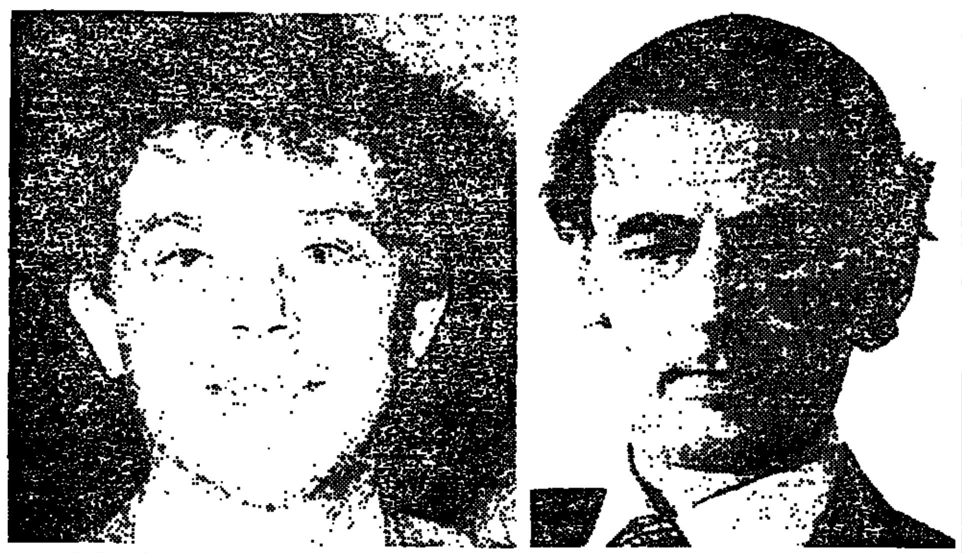
Research: Deborah Benn

Edited by Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

Shares shoot-out

The Labour MP Tony Blair has hit back at the Stock Exchange over *its response this week to* his survey of stockbroker services to small investors. PETER GARTLAND explains



Blair, left: "the unapproachable face of capitalism." Goodison: computer system to cut cost

The first battle in this latest war of words over shareholder democracy was fought just over a week ago when Tony Blair, Labour's City spokesman, published the results of a survey he had carried out of 151 Stock Exchange firms that were listed in a Stock Exchange publication as "a selection of brokers who specialize in dealing with the smaller, private investor".

Mr Blair, MP for Sedgefield, claims he found "a third-class service at first-class rates".

Every one of the 151 stockbroking firms was approached earlier this month and asked to sell 200 British Telecom shares.

The results, described by Mr Blair as "truly staggering" include:

- One-third refused to deal in the shares at all
- A further one-third would deal but at rates of minimum commission so high that it *would wipe out the entire* annual capital gain in the shares
- Only 36 of the 151 offered minimum commissions at less than £20 (plus VAT)
- All firms discriminated heavily against the small investor with usual rates being three times as high for deals below a certain level
- Since Big Bang rates have *dropped for big investors* but increased greatly for smaller ones
- The vast majority of stockbroking firms that would give rates of commission had the *same* rate of 1.65 per cent commission up to £7,000 for every bargain and competitive rates began only after that size of bargain. Mr Blair concludes from this that competition was not a factor in the services offered by stockbrokers to smaller investors.

Although the brunt of Mr Blair's attack is focused on stockbrokers, the high street banks do not escape criticism. He claims that their minimum commission rates are unacceptably high and that during the October stock market crash they were all, apart from Barclays, *unable* to offer a proper service.

The response that Mr Blair claims he got from the City office of National Westminster was: "Brokers are not taking any more orders from us until the middle of next week."

A NatWest spokesman pointed out this week that an instant touch-screen dealing service available in 245 of its branches had been used up to now for limited periods on specific privatization deals. However, NatWest intends to extend the service to more branches in 1988 and make it available for a much wider range of household-name shares.

There are also optimistic signs at the Stock Exchange, where the chairman Sir Nicholas Goodison and his colleagues are overseeing the development of a computer system for automatic execution of small orders to be introduced next year. The Stock Exchange hopes the new system will reduce the cost to member firms of processing small orders and will therefore benefit individual investors.

'This is reality for small investors'

But Mr Blair is more concerned with the present state of play than with what is on the horizon. "Forget the propaganda," he says. "This is the reality of life for small investors. They are being miserably treated by a system into which they were persuaded by a Government that is taking no steps at all to ensure they get a fair deal."

Mr Blair maintains that small investors do not have equal access to the market with the big players. Big Bang has driven up commission rates for them, he claims, and many stockbroking firms advertising as specializing in the small investor have no interest in them at all. "For the millions of small investors, they are left with the unapproachable face of capitalism," he says.

'The economics have now changed'

He is also unmoved by the Stock Exchange's "explosion of numbers" argument in response to his survey.

The Stock Exchange argues that there are problems that arise because we are moving from a society in which there was a limited number of shareholders, most of whom had substantial holdings of shares, to one in which there are millions of people with a very small number of shares. The economics of servicing the new wider share ownership are very different, it says.

It is all very well to say that now, according to Mr Blair, but it does not answer his criticism that small investors have been persuaded into the wider share ownership net without the potential dealing *problems being explained to* them beforehand.

The MP was particularly offended to find that three-quarters of the firms listed in the Stock Exchange publication that he used as a source for his own survey, and which was clearly targeted at small investors, failed to provide what he regards as adequate service to small investors. "That's not a great commendation," he says.

Back comes the Stock Exchange with the riposte that the results of the survey are not so bleak as their presentation suggests. The Stock Exchange says the 151 firms cited in the survey actually comprise 136 firms today, of which no fewer than 26 per cent are prepared to transact a small order at less than £20, a level below that charged by the major discount brokers in the United States.

But it is clear that the reality of wider share ownership is still far from matched by the reality of easy dealing. The Stock Exchange points out that some stockbroking firms are developing systems that enable them to serve small investors at low cost.

But in a statement that holds out little comfort for an estimated nine million small investors in the UK, it adds: "Others have chosen to withdraw from this segment of the market. They are perfectly entitled to do so."

KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Nov '86 to Nov '87)
+4.1%

Mortgage rate*
10.0%-10.5%

Bank base rate
8.50%

Bank prime overdraft rate*
13%-18% APR

Personal loan rate*
19.7% APR

Credit card rate*
23.1% APR

Hire purchase rate*[1]
28% APR

Bank deposit account
2.50-2.63%

Building society ordinary account
4%

High-interest cheque account*
5.90%

Holiday exchange rates*

Spanish peseta	198.25
French franc	9.93
Greek drachma	250
Italian lira	2155

* Typical rates
[1] £1,000 over 12 months
APR = annual percentage rate

THIS WEEK

Share ownership 1
Loans to bank employees 2
Antiques 2
Don't get taken to the cleaners 2
Dubious debts 3
Inheritance Tax 3
Pensions 3

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	8.50%

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

[illegible]

Dubious debts and how to deal with them

CREDIT CARDS

How would you feel if you opened up your monthly credit card statement and noticed an item listed that you knew was *not* yours?

The sum could be anything from *one or two pounds to several* hundred.

Your *initial reaction would* probably be either anger or panic, *neither of which* helps to sort out the problem efficiently. But if the credit card company has billed you for an item, what proof do you have that it is not yours?

You could ring the credit card head office and demand that the matter be settled immediately, *but* you would have to consider that the call is likely to be a long-distance one and you may be kept waiting.

Or you could write a letter refusing to pay the bill until the problem is sorted out, but your bill has to be settled within the next three or four weeks and if you have *not received a reply by then you have* the additional problem of interest building up.

If you prefer to telephone the credit card company, make a note of the person to whom you speak and follow up the call, as soon as possible, confirming what was discussed and, of course, keep a copy for your own reference.

An adviser at the Citizens' Advice Bureau suggested that the incorrect bill could be returned with a letter pointing *out the error, sent first* class or recorded delivery to ensure immediate attention.

A spokesman from Access head office explained that, if cardholders want to query an amount on their bill, "they should contact the number provided on the statement or go into the local branch of their bank as soon as possible".

Once the branch had been notified, *the discrepancy* would be investigated.

The spokesman said: "It would be extremely short-sighted for a retailer to alter the vouchers in any way. It is more likely to be a clerical error. The retailers have an agreement with the credit card companies and if there were any reason to doubt their *integrity*, they would be investigated thoroughly."

Simon Read, at the Access department of Lloyds Bank, advised: "Either ring the inquiry number supplied on the statement or write. Although errors are dealt with as quickly as possible, if the bill becomes due for repayment then proceed as you normally would and when the matter has been sorted out, we would refund either the full sum, or the interest charged, whichever was appropriate."

A representative for Barclaycard said that all errors are fully investigated. If the sum in question was particularly large it would probably be discovered quickly anyway, because there is a good chance it would *push the total* amount over the cardholder's credit limit.

However, if you find that your statement is incorrect, "ring Barclaycard first, or go into your local branch of Barclays Bank where they may make the call for you".

Barclaycard suggested that if the bill becomes due for repayment before the matter has been resolved, you should pay it and the sum will be credited to your account on the next month's statement, when the source of the error has been found.

A Diner's Club spokesman said the matter would be investigated, but that if the evidence *showed that* the item was signed for and neither *the signature nor the voucher* had been altered the cardholder would be held responsible for payment.

If you are not happy with the way your credit card company appears to be dealing with the error on your statement, you could contact a solicitor or the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

The Citizens' Advice Bureau offers free advice to everyone. There *are branches throughout* the country and your local library will supply you with the address of the nearest one and the hours it is open for consultation. Take all relevant details with you and an adviser will help you to draft (and type) a letter if it is required.

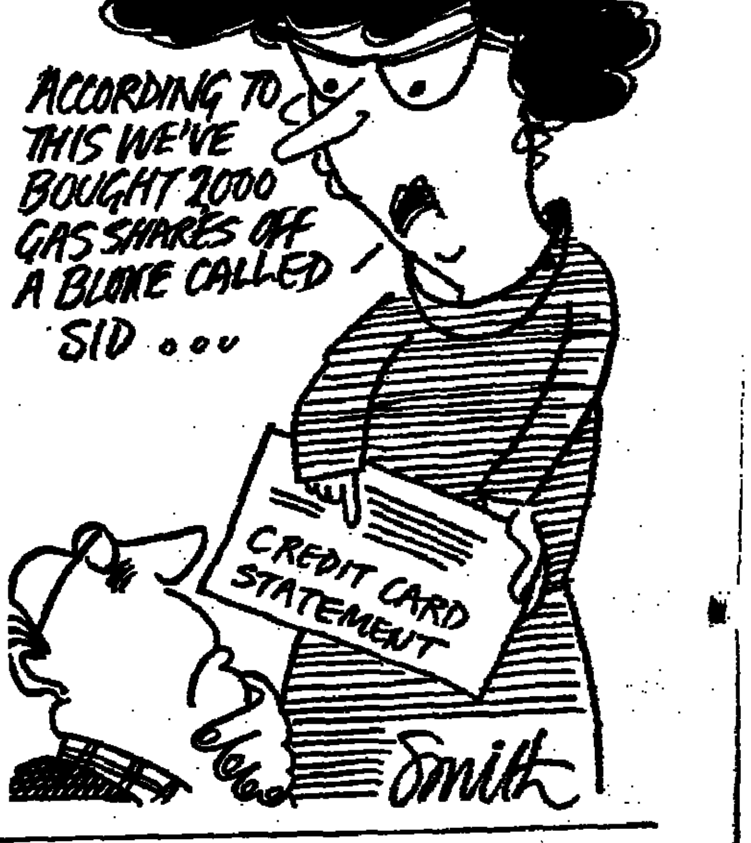
An adviser from the Citizens' Advice Bureau pointed out that financial errors can be very frightening to some people, but it is better to stop for a moment *and think* about how best to deal with the problem. If *it* became necessary, the bureau would refer you to its free legal service or money advice service.

Whether you have been in the position of receiving an incorrect credit card statement or not, always check every statement against your receipts. Never assume that errors do not occur.

Barclaycard, for example, deals with 17 million vouchers a month and Access claims that by the end of December it will have dealt with more than 380 million retail vouchers this year.

Credit card companies, in general, admit that while mistakes are extremely rare, they can, and do, happen.

Alison Bremner


ACCORDING TO THIS WE'VE BOUGHT 2000 GAS SHARES OFF A BLOKE CALLED SID ...
CREDIT CARD STATEMENT
Smith

How to keep the children happy: Careful planning and sensible giving can lighten the tax burden for the next generation.

Giving away to make gains

TAX

Give it away – there is less tax to pay.
WALTER SINCLAIR explains

If the UK tax system is allowed to take its course over the years, a large chunk of any *wealth you have accumulated* will disappear.

Capital gains are taxed at 30 per cent, income at up to 60 per cent, and, when you die, Inheritance Tax rates will extend to 60 per cent. Some of these rates may be reduced, but ultimately, a significant *proportion* will go to the Inland Revenue, rather than your heirs.

However, there is a solution. If you can afford it, make gifts. Our tax system affords them special reliefs, as described in this article.

In general, gifts are not only free of Inheritance Tax *when* made, but they also reduce your liability when you die. Under the potentially exempt transfer (PET) system most life-time gifts to individuals and certain trusts escape Inheritance Tax *unless you die* within seven years.

If death occurs within three years of the gift, its full value when made attracts tax; otherwise a percentage of the full tax is payable as set out in the table.

Particularly if you are in *good health, it is worth* considering covering the potential Inheritance Tax liability on any lifetime gifts that you make. The cost is normally reasonable.

A gift may be covered by certain exemptions, so as not even to reach the PET category. For example, there is an *annual exemption* of £3,000 available to both your spouse and yourself. Furthermore, if you have not used your exemption from the previous tax year; it can be carried forward, but for one year only.

In addition, any number of small gifts of up to £250 each per person can be made in any year, but not to those covered by the annual exemption. Recurrent normal expenditure gifts out of income are also allowed.

Trusts are a good answer for minors

Wedding gifts are *exempted, subject* to certain limits. The parents of the happy couple can each give up to £5,000, the grandparents up to £2,500 each, and others £1,000.

Gifts from one spouse to another, *and estate passing* between them on death, normally escapes Inheritance Tax. However, this does mean that when the surviving spouse dies, the entire remaining estate is caught. Thus, both *spouses should make earlier* gifts and bequests.

So avoid giving members of your family immediate access to capital. Where minors are involved, trusts are a good answer. Setting up an accumulation and maintenance settlement is treated as PET, so no Inheritance Tax is payable at that time. Such a trust is very useful for grandchildren. However, *all* beneficiaries must be entitled to at least the income by the time they reach the age of 25.

Another type of trust that comes into the PET category is one where the beneficiaries are immediately entitled to the income. This is known as *an interest* in possession trust and is useful for adult children. Discretionary settlements are also commonly used. However, the creation of such a settlement is not a PET and attracts Inheritance Tax at half of the normal rates.

Possible Inheritance Tax savings through gifts are high, and well worthwile. For example, provided you survive seven years, if your remaining estates exceed £330,000 after a *gift of £100,000, the tax* saved when you die will be £60,000. Similarly, a gift of £50,000, leaving £140,000, will save £20,000, assuming the current rate scale applies.

The figures exclude any part of your estate left to your surviving spouse. It is assumed also that none of the gifts has "strings". Such gifts, known as gifts with reservations, are generally ineffective for Inheritance Tax purposes.

The other major capital tax to consider in connection with *gifts is Capital Gains Tax. The* gift of an asset can give rise to this tax. If, for example, you make a gift of shares, you are liable for Capital Gains Tax, *taking their market value as* the proceeds. However, gifts of money do not give rise to any Capital Gains Tax.

Fortunately, where a gift would otherwise give rise to a capital gain, you are able to make an election to your inspector of taxes for this to be held over. The recipient of the gift must also make an election (unless a trust). The recipient of the gift then takes over your capital gains tax position regarding the asset. *You pay no tax but he or she* becomes liable for it on selling the asset.

You may be gifting your business or shares in your family company. If you have reached the age of 60, you may *be entitled to retirement relief* up to a maximum of £125,000. This must be used first and the gifts relief applies only to the balance.

Thus gifts produce substantial inheritance savings while being neutral for Capital Gains Tax purposes, if the *appropriate election* is made. What of income tax?

INHERITANCE TAX

DEATH IN YEAR	%
4	80
5	60
6	40
7	20

Parents taxed on income received

Gifts can produce surprising income tax savings. In the first place, if assets are transferred from high-rate taxpayers to those paying only basic-rate tax or none at all, the income tax payable on the *income attached* to the assets is much reduced.

However, the position of children who are not yet aged 18 must be noted. The parents are then taxed on any income they receive from assets that they provided, or *trusts that* they set up.

A *brief word is appropriate* about seven-year deeds of covenant. Effectively, these are gifts of income without the capital. Payments are made net of basic-rate tax (27 per cent) and must be capable of exceeding six years. If the recipient has little or no other income, basic-rate tax can be reclaimed.

Finally, a word about gifts to charities. These attract wide taxation reliefs, being *exempted* from both Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax. Deeds of covenant to charities require only four annual payments and attract relief from *higher-rate income* tax. Thus your own generosity is lavishly rewarded by the tax authorities.

● *Walter Sinclair is a national tax partner in the chartered accountants Kidsons, and author of the* Allied Dunbar Tax Guide 1987-88

The persuaders from the boss

PENSIONS

Most employees will now have received their employers' circulars outlining the new pensions legislation. CERI JONES explains the issues

Membership of any occupational pension scheme cannot be compulsory from April 1988. Not surprisingly, many companies are keen to advertise the real value of their schemes compared with the *new personal pensions that* will be available in July.

However, some *companies* are also indicating that they intend to improve the lot of employees who stay in the company scheme, and some small employers who do not run a scheme intend to *introduce one next year.* Relatively little attention has been paid to the way this will affect an employee's decision on taking out a personal pension.

Naturally, most of the changes will provide the employer with a weapon against the attractions of personal pensions for younger employees. Those choosing the individual route will gain the Government's special 2 per cent incentive for six tax years (1987-93) and the young will also benefit because *the* National Insurance rebate they will receive in lieu of Serps is loaded in their favour.

However, for the first time next April, group money purchase schemes, in which the payout depends on investment returns, will be able to contract out of Serps without having to provide a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP). Such schemes will naturally receive the National Insurance rebates and members who have not been contracted out in the company scheme for two years will also be entitled to the 2 per cent incentive – but only for five years (1988-93).

If your employer takes advantage of this new simplicity and starts a contracted-out money purchase scheme, the fact that you will not receive the 2 per cent incentive for this tax year will be negated by the economies of scale inherent in a group scheme.

Furthermore, like personal pensions, a group money purchase scheme *offers* the psychological attraction of being able to watch your pot of money grow. Similarly, if you decide to change jobs, you can simply withdraw your account – under a final salary scheme, you would be *bound by* the actuary's decision on the transfer value you have earned and the added years that will be credited to your next employer's scheme.

However, contracted-out money purchase schemes also share the fundamental drawback of personal pensions, that the ultimate payout depends on the underlying investment conditions in the years to retirement. Moreover, as the GMP no longer has to be provided, your *employer may decide* to pay only the minimum 3.8 per cent contribution. In such circumstances you would be wise to *make additional* voluntary contributions to boost your pension.

Hybrid scheme is one solution

It is rather more complicated when a large company plans to enhance its pension arrangements in an attempt to provide the best of both the money purchase and *final* salary worlds.

One way in which this can be achieved is by introducing a defined contribution/*defined benefit* hybrid scheme.

Under this type of arrangement, the benefits can be primarily geared to money *purchase but the trustees* can also guarantee that the payout will be no less than a certain fraction of final salary for every year of pensionable service. A generous hybrid scheme, for example, might be based on total employer and employee contributions of 10 per cent and a guarantee to pay the greater of either the accumulated fund or one eightieth for every year of pensionable service.

Another way in which an employer might satisfy the needs of all his employees is establishing a contracted-out money purchase scheme for the under-40s and a final salary scheme for the older workforce.

These solutions provide the younger member with an identifiable pot and complete portability, while the member approaching retirement is to some extent protected from *stock market* falls.

Alternatively, if your employer *runs a contracted-in* scheme and does not plan any changes next year, you can arrange the best of both worlds with a free-standing AVC contract. These new contracts can also be used to contract *out* and *obtain* the 2 per cent incentive and NI rebates.

On the negative side, your employer might also have less agreeable plans to discourage you from opting out of the company scheme. One obvious ploy will be to prevent you from re-entering at the *appropriate age when the* NI rebate is no longer loaded in your favour.

The indications are that many employers will make exceptions only in cases of extreme hardship or to maintain goodwill if the employee wishing to rejoin is particularly valuable. *At* any rate, *if* your employer decides to exercise his discretion, there will be no guarantee.

The other strategy will be to preclude employees who are not members of the main pension scheme from the group life cover and permanent *disability insurance*. Not only are such benefits more expensive to obtain on an individual basis but they may also be impossible to secure if you are already in poor health.

The lighter side: a video promoting company pensions

Portfolio Gold

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 27).

Share No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+6	+4	+3	+3			
2	+7	+5	+4	+3			
3	+6	+5	+3	+6			
4	+4	+3	+7	+6			
5	+5	+4	+3	+2			
6	+3	+2	+6	+4			
7	+8	+6	+5	+4			
8	+7	+5	+4	+5			
9	+6	+6	+5	+3			
10	+4	+3	+5	+2			
11	+5	+6	+3	+7			
12	+6	+4	+4	+3			
13	+3	+3	+6	+4			
14	+4	+6	+3	+5			
15	+5	+4	+5	+3			
16	+5	+3	+7	+4			
17	+3	+4	+5	+1			
18	+7	+6	+4	+5			
19	+7	+5	+2	+6			
20	+4	+5	+4	+4			
21	+2	+5	+4	+1			
22	+2	+3	+6	+5			
23	+7	+5	+4	+2			
24	+1	+5	+3	+3			
25	+5	+4	+6	+3			
26	+6	+7	+4	+7			
27	+6	+4	+5	+2			
28	+6	+6	+3	+2			
29	+5	+6	+2	+6			
30	+5	+4	+8	+3			
31	+5	+5	+5	+2			
32	+4	+5	+3	+5			
33	+1	+3	+7	+5			
34	+5	+5	+4	+2			
35	+8	+6	+6	+3			
36	+3	+7	+3	+5			
37	+1	+2	+8	+4			
38	+3	+3	+4	+3			
39	+4	+3	+4	+2			
40	+2	+4	+6	+4			
41	+3	+3	+3	+1			
42	+2	+4	+6	+4			
43	+1	+3	+8	+3			
44	+2	+6	+3	+8			

Over 55? Why not enjoy a tax free income? Life may begin at 40, but tax free income for you begins at 55.

That is, if you have invested in the right place. You see, we have a plan for turning taxed investment income into tax free income in your hands – and paid monthly if required.

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FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING

Lloyds' 50,000 PEP investors

■ *Lloyds Bank claims that, following a* pre-Christmas surge of interest in its Personal Equity Plan, it now has almost 50,000 PEP investors and £80 million under management.

Lloyds attributes this to *low charges* and dealing costs, a wide range of blue-chip shares and the option of monthly contributions. The bank is probably also benefiting from being seen as a *serious player in the PEP market at a time* when other providers, notably Fidelity, are holding back on their 1988 PEP. But Lloyds is still hoping that the Chancellor will make changes to PEPs in 1988. *It wants him to make the* scheme more attractive and give it a wider appeal consistent with the Government's long-term aim of wider share ownership.

■ **New rules governing the tax-free aid that companies can give to employees moving for job-related reasons have been described as woefully inadequate by Swindon-based Homequity Ltd, which claims to be Britain's largest relocation specialist. *The company's managing* director Patrick Montgomery says that just as the Government is encouraging job mobility, the latest rules fail to help people to bridge the North-South house price gap. Mr Montgomery says the new rules, allowing a maximum tax-free £17,220 payment to service loans required to bridge regional house price differences, do not go far enough to break down the increasingly tough barriers to relocation.**

Homequity's research has found the vast price difference between North and South, along with many social issues, has meant two out of three companies *now experience resistance from* employees asked to move. Homequity claims this is a growing trend, costing businesses an estimated £500 million a year.

■ With the seasonal holiday advertising now under way, the insurance *companies are producing their own* 1988 holiday insurance packages. One front-runner, Norwich Union, has beefed-up its *Holiday Plus* plan by increasing the cancellation and curtailment sum insured from £1,500 to £2,000 and raising the personal money sum insured to £400. Loss of *passport is now included as a* separate section with a sum insured of £250. Norwich Union is also increasing the discount to policyholders who have all-risks cover for their personal belongings *under a household* policy and want the cover excluded from their holiday contract. The company says the higher discount will cut Holiday Plus insurance for 10 nights in *Europe from £18.60 to £12.40.*

Smith
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■ **London house price rises will fall *to an annual rate of around 20 per cent*, says the Nationwide Anglia Building Society. Its latest figures show that house prices are rising much faster than incomes, and that first-time buyers *are finding it exceptionally hard to* buy in London. The society says this will force price rises to level off "within months". The survey shows that London house prices in the year to *September rose by 27 per cent*, against 29 per cent recorded in the year to June. An average house in London now costs £87,810, nearly 50 per cent more than the average price for a similar house elsewhere. *The society adds* that in 1987 the proportion of first-time buyer mortgages in London actually fell, to 41 per cent, from an average over the past few years of 55 per cent.**

"*It is becoming increasingly clear* that price rises like these cannot continue without forcing first-time buyers out of the market altogether," the survey says.

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The day a bank just says No

Bank employees are often envied because of the low-interest mortgages and loans they can get. They can buy cars, videos, houses and so on without worrying too much about the interest costs.

However, these perks make it difficult for bank workers to move jobs. "They are like tied cottage workers," said Janet McGuire, a research officer for BIFU, the bank employees' union. If an employee leaves it is reasonable that any outstanding loans should be converted to commercial interest rates. But under most bank regulations what happens is that all loans are cancelled.

It is then up to the individual branch manager to decide whether to offer a loan on normal customer conditions. Legally he can refuse a new loan and immediately call up the total debt, whether the loans were on preferential interest rates or not.

Michael (not his real name) left his job at the Bank of Scotland about three months ago. As an ambitious 23-year-old he felt there were better pay and more prospects with the insurance company for which he now works. But he did not give any notice and his job change has caused more problems than he expected. He has about £1,400 outstanding in loans from the bank, including a revolving credit scheme on which he pays ordinary customer rates.

Michael knew he would no longer be entitled to the concessionary rates for employees but did not realize the bank would use its right to cancel all his loans. His concessionary loans have now been turned into an overdraft, at a very reasonable APR of 15 per cent, but at a meeting last week with his bank manager, who is also his former boss, it was made quite clear that this situation could not continue.

Michael was offered the choice of keeping his revolving credit scheme and immediately clearing his other debts in full, which amount to £788.15, or converting all £1,400 into a bank loan to be repaid within a year. He has been given 14 days in which to make his decision.

"It's not a real choice," says Michael. "I would like to keep the revolving credit scheme, but I couldn't possibly pay off the rest of the debt in one go. And I don't think it's fair to expect me to pay the full amount within one year."

Michael's monthly repayments would amount to £128.25 on his new loan, but though his new job pays him about £500 to £750 net a month this is mainly in commission. He would like to keep his revolving credit and take a loan over three years for the remaining debts.

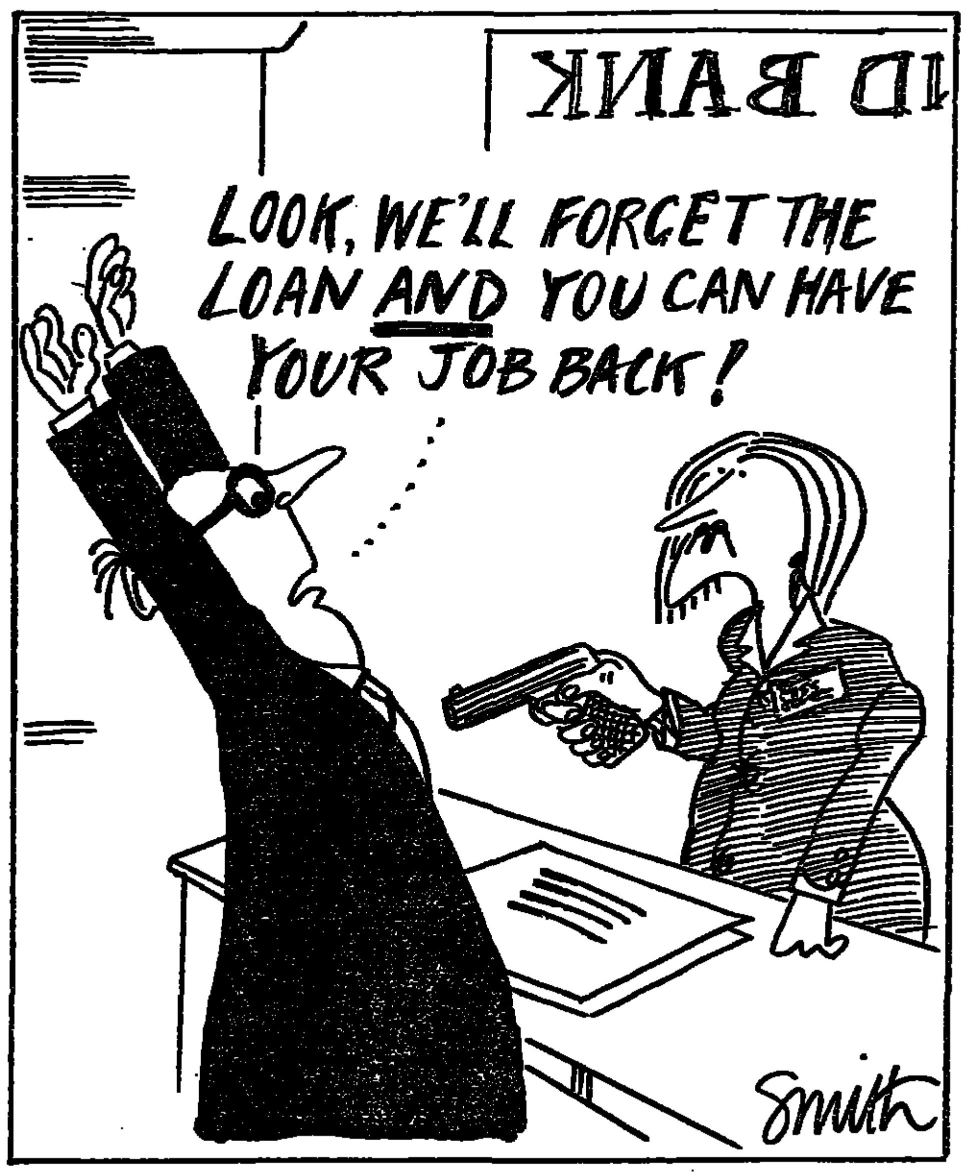
I was present at the meeting with his bank manager. Here are some extracts from the conversation.

BANK MANAGER: "When you took the decision to resign from the staff of the bank you were aware of the staff manual instructions, which said your borrowing should be repaid on resignation. You've chosen to go your own way. In the absence of a proposal from you to repay the borrowing immediately, what would be acceptable to the bank is a Scotloan facility over a mximum period of one year to repay your Scotplan and also your borrowing. The alternative is to arrange your borrowing elsewhere."

MICHAEL: "Has the fact that I gave no notice affected your decision in any way?"

BANK MANAGER: "I'm not vindictive and there's no way I'm trying to make life difficult for you. But the situation is that if you had given the period of notice it would have given you time to organize your finances so that you would have been left in a position to repay all your borrowing the day you left, which you should have done."

MICHAEL: "I'd like to know why you want to convert my Scotplan into a Scotloan. I haven't defaulted on the payments and if I abide by its terms and conditions, I don't see why I can't continue with it as an ordinary customer."


LOOK, WE'LL FORGET THE LOAN AND YOU CAN HAVE YOUR JOB BACK!
Smith

BANK MANAGER: "You're not having a Scotloan and a Scotplan from me at the same time."

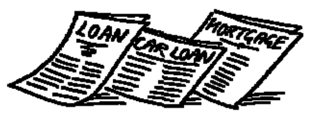
MICHAEL: "And you've closed your mind to allowing me to repay over a longer time?"

BANK MANAGER: "In a nutshell, yes. I'm not having ex-staff account loans on my books for the next three years. I've made a reasonable offer, but if you don't organize your affairs properly within the next 14 days then you will get a demand for repayment and that will be followed through to the full extent of recovering the debt by legal means.

"It's up to you. You should have thought carefully about all aspects of resigning from the bank before you did so, but clearly you didn't."

The bank manager is right. He has no obligation to offer Michael any borrowing facilities at all. Michael can refuse the offer only if he can persuade another bank to take on his borrowing, which for someone who has only just started a commission-based job would be difficult.

A Bank of Scotland spokesman said: "Bank loans by ex-employees are not normally called up, but they are cancelled and then usually rescheduled. It is up to the individual bank manager to decide whether the applicant's own circumstances warrant the level of borrowing required, because the applicant is now like any other customer."



In theory this is true, but most other customers would not have their loans cancelled merely because of a change of job, unless they had defaulted on the payments.

The situation is not unique to the Bank of Scotland. The internal staff regulations of other clearing banks, including the National Westminster, Midland, Lloyds and Barclays, state clearly that all loans must be paid on leaving their employment.

No specific mention is made of loans taken out at ordinary customer interest rates but any bank has the right to cancel these loans with the appropriate notice, whether the client is a former employee or not. The decision lies with the individual manager and some will be more sympathetic than others.

Employees with bank mortgages could be in a much worse position than Michael. Unless the bank is prepared to convert the mortgage to normal interest rates, the former employee would have to arrange mortgage finance somewhere else.

In practice it is a lot more difficult to transfer borrowing between banks and building societies than to transfer savings.

"I know not many people have sympathy for bank staff with their low-interest loans and mortgages," said Ms McGuire, "but the problem is that if they leave they not only lose these preferential loans but also there is no absolute guarantee the bank will give them ordinary customer loans to repay those debts."

Eveline Hunter

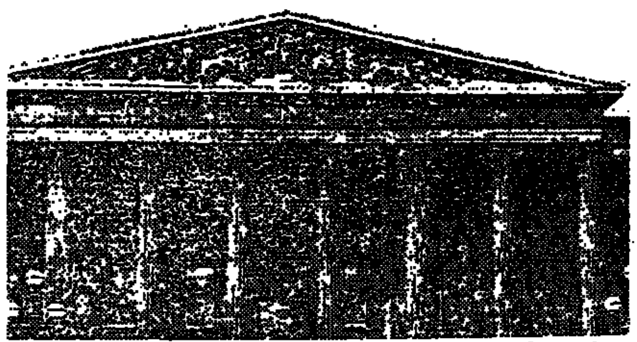
The great deceivers

ANTIQUES

It is deflating to get a loved piece of furniture dismissed as a fake when you take it to an expert for valuation. It is even worse to be told the heirloom you have been cherishing is a forgery.

Yet one expert estimates that as many as one in eight of the items passing through the antiques trade is either a fake or a forgery. A fake is an existing but inferior article altered to resemble a similar article of greater value, while a forgery is something copied so that it can be passed off as the genuine article.

Nearly every museum and art gallery in Britain can point to fakes and forgeries in its own collection, and the British Museum is no exception.


Even the British Museum has its fakes and forgeries

Porcelain is open to both faking and forgery. Many a piece of plain white china has been decorated with voluptuous fruit so that it resembles a piece of Worcester. Porcelain bird figures deceived at least one famous auction house in the 1950s.

In the past, patterns were often pirated or marks removed by using an acid solution and a more valuable mark substituted.

Old wine glasses are also a popular subject for the forger. Scratches are inherent in even the most carefully kept glasses but will be of the haphazard every-scratch-tells-a-story variety. If the scratches are too deep and run in the same direction the story they tell may well be of a forger busy with emery powder rather than one of frequent use.

Antique furniture is reproduced more frequently than it is faked or forged. Although a reproduction piece is a close imitation or copy of the original, it was no doubt made initially for decoration, with no intention to deceive, and should come down the centuries still labelled as "reproduction".

Reproduction pieces for decoration

A replica, on the other hand, is an exact copy, frequently made by the original artist or craftsman. An Oriental carpet may well have started out as a genuine reproduction of a traditional design, but at a later stage in its history it could be "aged" without the knowledge of the manufacturers, and subsequently passed off as an original.

Villains show remarkable ingenuity in ageing Oriental carpets, from fading them prematurely with chemicals or lemon juice to rubbing them with coffee grounds and even burying them in the ground for a while.

Forgers of antique furniture also go to great lengths, staining apple wood to look like ebony, dyeing beech wood to look like walnut, and colouring walnut to simulate rosewood.

In his *Dictionary of Antiques*, George Savage recalls Italian forgers who lent "antique" tables and chairs to cafés and restaurants for a few months as a quick way of ageing their furniture.

By and large, most of the fakes and forgeries coming into the auction houses for valuation nowadays are not contemporary pieces. In his day Dürer was much copied by his contemporaries, but today's forgers probably find it more profitable to forge credit cards than engravings.

Much of the faked porcelain around now was faked in the 18th rather than the 20th century. And on time alone, the fine craftsmanship that needs to go into a piece of "antique" furniture to make it convincing is scarcely cost-effective.

There is almost no limit to the objects and categories that have been faked and forged at one time or another, and where there is a demand, someone somewhere will have tried to meet it – coins, pistols, prints, maps, commemoratives, paperweights, apothecaries' jars and even icons. None has been safe from the forger's art.

All is not lost, however, if your family treasure should turn out to be a forgery, for although it will not command the value of the original it purports to be, it may well prove to be of greater value than the genuine object of inferior quality.

The advice that you should "always buy something that you like rather than its supposed investment value" will protect you from disappointment if the antique you purchase should turn out to be a fake, provided that you have not paid a greatly inflated price for it in the first place.

Weight, condition, patina, the feel, style and colour of glass, porcelain and furniture all help the experienced buyer develop an eye for the "rightness" of an object.

Beware of signatures, which can easily be faked, and hallmarks transposed from an old piece of silver to a new piece. Treat fairings with caution, and be wary of coins, which used to be forged on a grand scale in the Middle East.

The moral in buying antiques is always: *Caveat emptor*. Limit the possibilities of being sold a fake by purchasing from a dealer of recognized experience and reputation, and get a fully descriptive invoice. Prestigious auction houses such as Christie's and Sotheby's will authenticate only the antiques about which they are positive, but they say they would take full responsibility if a fake or forgery did slip through.

But although the auction houses would undoubtedly investigate an accusation of this kind, it is not unknown for experts to disagree among themselves, and it could well prove to be a case of your opinion against theirs.

Some collectors buy 'genuine' forgeries

If you do find yourself with a fake or forgery, do not despair. Many collectors concentrate on this particular avenue of antiques and willingly buy "genuine" forgeries.

As with everything else, the rarer it is and the finer the quality, the better the price. And while an artist such as Van Meegeren may not yet command the price of one of the Vermeers he sought to emulate, his work still achieves the kind of sum that most of us would regard as very respectable.

Morag Campbell

Don't get taken to the cleaners

RIGHTS

Some people who take their goods to a shop to be repaired, altered, valued or assessed just forget to collect them afterwards. Others find that when the goods are ready for collection, they are short of cash and intend to collect them when they can afford to do so.

When eventually you return for goods that have long since been ready, the reception you get from the trader can vary considerably. In some cases your goods will be handed over without comment, apart from, perhaps, a sigh of relief; or possibly the trader gives you a black look and even makes a sarcastic remark about taking your time.

Occasionally, however, he might express indignation that you had not collected them before, and grumble that he was not going to wait for ever. Your uncollected goods were taking up valuable space in his shop, he says, and finally he sold or otherwise disposed of them. Again, he might shrug his shoulders and say that after all that time your goods had been lost or mislaid.

So what can you do when a trader refuses or is unable to return those goods because you did not collect them on the due date?

Under common law, the trader has a lien on your goods until you pay him for the work he has done. Nevertheless, he has a duty to safeguard them while they are in his custody, and has no right to sell or dispose of those goods unless he first notifies you in writing of his intention to do so.

The Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977 stipulates that if goods have not been collected, the trader must give the owner written notice that such goods are ready for collection, and also state the amount of charges payable for work done on them. He might sometimes add that unless they are collected within a reasonable time or by a fixed date, those goods will be sold.

In this notice, the goods must be accurately described in such a manner that the owner can easily identify them as being those that he left with the trader.

If the goods then remain uncollected, the trader can give the owner another written notice that he intends to sell them. This notice must be sent to the owner by registered post or recorded delivery service. The date of sale should be at least three months from the date of the notice.

All the trader requires is to obtain payment for the work done, so he is never likely to send out a notice that he intends to sell unless he is quite satisfied that there is no alternative. After all, he knows there could be legitimate reasons, such as death or illness, that could have delayed collection of the goods, and will invariably give the owner plenty of time to collect before serving the notice.

If the owner of the goods had previously indicated that he did not agree with the charges claimed, the trader's right to sell is temporarily suspended until the matter is resolved.

When eventually the trader finds that the goods remain uncollected and decides to sell them, he must proceed strictly in accordance with the Act, and adopt the best method of sale reasonably available to him. To accept a low price for a conveniently quick sale is not good enough.

After the sale has taken place, the trader must account to the owner for any proceeds, less expenses reasonably incurred by the sale.

When you take goods to be repaired or altered, it will save time and trouble if you collect them on the due date or as soon as possible afterwards. Remember, if you delay collecting for too long and ignore the trader's notices, your goods could well be sold.

But even if you forgot, or deliberately neglected to collect until some time after the goods were ready, you might still have some rights under the Act.

Arthur Nicklin

THESE SHOES YOU BROUGHT IN JUST BEFORE THE WAR — THEY'LL BE READY NEXT TUESDAY...
Smith

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Hi Inc Equity	113.8	121.0●	+3.8	4.92
Worldwide Bd	188.3	201.8●	+1.0	4.81
American Gth	131.3	139.5c	+8.2	1.58
Asian Pacific	54.1	57.5●	+4.0	2.40
Assets & Earns	124.5	132.4●	+4.9	2.18
Capital Res	75.9	76.5	+0.7	1.32
Comm Energy	97.8	104.0	+0.4	1.10
Euro Capital	64.2	68.2	+1.5	1.09
General	151.5	161.1	+11.4	2.79
Japan	82.4	87.6	+2.9	..
UK Gth Inc	117.6	125.0	+4.1	1.93
Do Acc	171.6	182.4	+7.0	1.92
US Emerg Co	35.9	38.1●	+3.5	0.00
Income Gth	232.9	247.7	+15.6	3.84
Master Acc	66.8	71.0	+4.3	2.93
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Japan Gth Acc	131.8	140.8	-0.8	0.20
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Preference Inc	128.4	130.7	..	9.80
Sml Co Div Inc	85.0	90.0c	+2.8	4.24
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Balanced	390.3	413.7●	+13.2	3.48
Amer Inc	25.3	28.9	+0.5	4.72
World Ass Val	22.7	24.2	+0.3	1.49
Japan	121.7	129.8●	+0.2	0.01
Sec of Amer	174.0	185.3●	+4.8	1.15
Asset Value	280.0	298.8●	+13.3	3.35
O'seas Earn	196.2	208.0●	+8.5	3.41
Recovery	97.7	103.6	+2.8	2.47
UK Spec Sit	234.1	248.1	+8.8	2.78
Smlr Co	159.6	169.2	+6.0	2.10
Capital	234.5	248.6	+8.9	3.12
Amer Spec Sit	51.9	55.3	+1.7	1.93
International	85.0	90.5	+1.5	1.50
Growth & Inc	145.0	153.7	+5.2	3.64
Euro Gth	17.3	18.4	+0.2	1.36
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High Income	51.9	55.3●	+3.0	5.56
International	76.7	81.7	+3.3	0.85
Income Growth	61.0	64.9	+3.5	4.80
Gilt/Fixed Inc	22.5	24.0	+0.6	10.05
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Gilt & Fixed Inc	52.8	55.5●	+0.4	9.80
Income Tst	380.6	404.6	+11.9	4.14
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01-588 1815

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Income	371.69	e	..	5.40
Acc	2113.49	c	..	..
Deposit	100.0		..	8.82

CHASE MANHATTAN FUND MNGRS
72/73 Basinghall St, London EC2V 5DP
01-606 6622

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
S/C Spec Sit	56.0	59.2	+2.3	0.40

CLERICAL MEDICAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH
0800 373393

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Amer Gth	17.8	18.9	+1.1	1.09
Atlas Gth	21.1	22.4	+0.8	1.42
Dragon Gth	17.5	18.6	+0.9	2.23
Equity Hi Inc	52.2	55.5●	+1.9	4.84
European Gth	22.9	24.3	+0.2	1.90
Gen Equity	44.8	47.5	+1.7	3.00
G/F Intrst Gth	32.0	33.7	+0.3	8.04
Gilt & Fixed Inc	24.7	25.0●	+0.2	9.15
Int Income Tst	21.6	22.9	+0.4	5.68
Japan Gth	40.1	42.5	+1.2	0.00
Pedigree Gth	26.9	28.5	+1.1	2.38
Special Sits	32.9	34.9	+1.4	2.31

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS
St Helen's, 1, Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ
01-283 7500 Dealing 01-686 6818

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
UK & Gen Inc	51.7	55.0●	+3.4	3.72
Do Acc	53.0	56.4●	+3.5	3.72
Income Inc	54.7	58.2●	+3.0	4.07
Do Acc	56.2	59.8●	+3.1	4.07
Worldwide Inc	40.9	43.7c	+1.9	0.97
Do Acc	41.0	43.8c	+1.9	0.97
Gemma Inc	31.0	33.0	+1.9	0.84
Do Acc	31.0	33.0	+1.9	0.84
Amer Gth	50.7	53.9	+2.8	0.61
Euro Gth	46.5	49.5	+0.3	0.61
Far East	52.3	55.6	+1.6	0.07

CROWN UNIT TRUST SERVICES LTD
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW
04862 5033

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Amer Tst	99.5	107.6c	+2.6	0.93
Canadian Gth	17.3	18.7	+0.4	1.50
European Tst	81.2	87.8	+1.1	..
Growth Tst	244.7	264.5	+10.2	3.23
High Income	300.3	324.8	+12.4	5.82
Int Tech Tst	98.2	106.2	+3.6	..
Japanese Tst	185.8	200.9	+7.4	..

CRUSADER UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Reigate, Surrey RH2 8BL
0737-242424

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
European Gth	45.3	48.8●	+0.2	3.00
Euro Spec Sits	32.4	35.3	+0.5	1.30
International	42.7	46.0●	+0.8	3.60
N Amer Gth	35.0	37.7	+1.0	1.00
Pacific Gth	46.8	50.4●	+1.0	4.80
UK Gth Acc	55.9	60.2	+1.8	0.50
Do Dist	54.6	58.8	+1.8	0.50
UK Income	53.4	57.5	+1.5	4.80

EFM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
4, Melville Crescent, Edinburgh
031-226 3492

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
American Fd	52.2	55.6	+2.0	1.80
Capital Fd	111.4	118.8	+3.6	1.48
Eurofund	20.7	22.0	+0.3	2.28
Growth & Inc	162.0	172.6	+8.1	4.06
High Dist Fd	139.0	148.0●	+7.0	5.07
International	177.5	189.0	+5.0	1.19
Pacific Fd	17.1	18.2	+1.1	0.00
Resources Fd	21.9	23.3	+1.9	0.00
Smlr Jap Co	36.0	38.3c	+0.4	..
Tokyo Fd	168.5	179.4	+1.1	0.00
Ex Amer 2	104.4	107.3	..	2.51
Ex Japan 3	100.9	104.0●	..	0.21
Ex Pacific 4	281.9	289.8	..	0.35
Ex Smlr Jap 4	204.4	211.0	..	0.10

EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ
0242 521311

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
UK Balan Inc	78.8	83.6●	+2.7	2.91
Do Acc	82.1	87.1●	+2.7	2.79
UK Gth Acc	110.9	117.7	+4.3	2.34
UK High Inc	89.3	94.9●	+2.8	4.82
N Amer Acc	58.8	62.7	+1.1	1.12
Far East Acc	100.0	106.7	+2.3	0.72
European Acc	65.0	69.3	+0.4	1.50
UK Gt/FI Inc	55.0	58.4●	+0.7	8.91
Do Acc	62.2	66.0●	+0.7	7.88
Int Spec Sits	34.9	37.2	+0.6	1.75

ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
Admin Centre
8 Hexagon House
Romford RM1 3LB
0708 66966

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Endurance	106.8	113.7	+7.0	1.16

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD
River Walk, Tonbridge, TN9 1DY
Callfree 0800 414161

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
American	89.8	95.0	+4.8	1.15
Amer Eqty Inc	25.3	27.0●	+0.8	5.20
Amer Spec Sit	34.8	37.3	+0.7	0.21
Australia	19.5	20.8	+0.4	2.06
European	45.9	49.1	+0.9	..
European Inc	19.8	21.2	+0.4	4.52
Global Conv	21.0	22.4●	+0.2	5.86
Far East Inc	34.8	37.1●	+0.7	3.92
Gt/Fxd Interest	28.6	●	+0.1	9.88
Growth & Inc	110.4	118.1●	+8.9	4.07
Japan Spec Sit	58.3	62.4	+0.2	..
Japan	142.3	151.8	-0.4	..
Man Interest	111.5	118.7	+2.1	0.75
Max Inc Eqty	101.8	108.9●	+4.1	4.82
Famous Name	38.4	41.1	+0.9	2.74
SE Asia	28.3	30.2	+1.6	0.61
Spec Sit	238.1	252.6	+17.9	0.69
Eastern Opps	19.4	20.7	+0.2	..

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT
3, London Wall Bldgs, London Wall London EC2M 5NQ
01-628 5181

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Amer/Gen Inc	141.8	150.0	+4.1	..
Do Acc	144.9	153.3	+4.3	..
Amer Turn Inc	150.2	158.9	+5.6	1.09
Do Acc	155.6	164.8	+5.8	1.02
Capital Inc	248.0	263.4	+7.9	2.25
Do Acc	307.0	324.8	+9.8	2.25
Conv/Gilt Inc	97.9	103.5●	+1.9	4.31
Do Acc	139.5	148.3●	+3.2	4.41
European Inc	48.5	51.2	+0.5	0.65
Do Acc	48.7	51.5	+0.4	0.65
Extra Inc Inc	219.0	231.7	+8.5	4.13
Do Acc	244.0	258.1	+7.3	4.13
Financial Acc	37.8	40.0	+1.1	0.88
Do Inc	37.6	39.7	+1.0	0.88
Income Tst	142.0	150.2●	+4.2	4.23
Do Acc	156.7	165.8●	+4.8	4.23
Int Growth Inc	127.1	134.4	+4.9	..
Do Acc	141.1	149.3	+5.5	..
Japan/Gen Inc	97.5	103.1	+0.6	..
Do Acc	98.5	104.2	+0.7	..
Monthly Inc Fd	112.0	118.5●	+3.7	3.39
PEP 87	84.2	87.3	+1.8	2.67
Recovery	154.1	163.0	+5.5	1.31
Do Acc	168.4	178.2	+5.9	1.31
Smaller Inc	49.0	51.8	+1.3	1.93
Do Acc	49.0	51.8	+1.3	1.93

FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH
Dealing 0722 411411 Admin 0722 411622

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Equity Dist	219.5	233.0●	+11.6	2.88
Do Acc	377.7	400.9●	+19.9	2.88
Euro Gth Dist	48.4	51.4	+2.7	0.97
Do Acc	48.4	51.4	+2.7	0.97
Fxd Interest Di	115.2	122.5●	+0.9	10.12
Do Acc	145.7	154.9●	+1.0	10.12
Int Gth Dist	47.5	50.5	+0.4	1.48
Do Acc	47.6	50.5	+0.4	1.48
Nth Amer Dist	103.6	110.0	+4.9	2.34
Do Acc	104.3	110.8c	+5.0	2.34
Pac Basin Dist	152.8	162.3	+4.0	0.23
Do Acc	153.0	162.5c	+4.0	0.23
Steward Dist	217.6	230.9●	+11.6	1.28
Do Acc	227.9	241.9●	+12.3	1.28
Steward Inc Di	51.1	54.2	+2.3	3.69
Do Acc	51.1	54.2	+2.3	3.69
N Am Stwd Di	46.4	49.3	+1.9	2.02
Do Acc	46.4	49.3	+1.9	2.02

GT UNIT MANAGERS
8th Floor, 8, Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ
01-283 2575 Dealing 01-626 9431

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Amer Spec Sit	51.0	54.3	+2.2	0.70
UK Cap Inc	120.4	128.1	+7.9	2.60
Do Acc	176.0	187.3	+11.6	2.60
Income Fd	94.2	100.3	+3.7	6.30
International	138.6	147.7	+5.5	0.50
US & General	42.8	45.6	+2.0	1.00
Japan & Gen	245.4	261.1	+1.5	0.10
Far East Gen	109.6	116.7●	+1.1	0.20
European Fd	202.8	215.8	+6.2	0.10
Germany Fd	51.6	54.9	+1.1	1.80
Int Inc Fd	47.7	50.8●	+2.6	5.60
Wld Spec Sit	56.0	59.6	+3.2	1.80

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument St, London EC3R 8AJ
01-623 1212 Dealing: 01-236 3885 Investor Services: 0800 289336

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
American	62.3	66.9	+1.4	0.70
Australian	19.0	20.4	+0.6	0.00
British Acc	69.0	73.2	+3.1	1.98
Do Dist	58.1	62.5	+2.6	1.98
Chelt UK Gth	23.6	25.8	+0.8	1.92
Commd Share	58.2	62.5	+1.7	1.80
European	42.2	45.4	+0.7	0.75
Extra Income	59.0	63.5	+2.5	4.43
Far East Tst	109.0	119.2	+3.3	0.20

SCIMITAR ASSET MANAGEMENT
8 Crosby Square London EC3A 6AQ
01-638 5858/4/5

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
UK Equity Inc	34.0	36.8	+2.9	5.66
Do Acc	35.5	37.4	+3.2	..
UK Cap Gl	22.5	23.7	+1.5	0.75
Euro Tst Inc	21.6	23.0●	+1.4	0.11
Do Acc	21.6	23.0●	+1.4	..
Global Gth Inc	27.0	28.5●	+0.2	0.19
Do Acc	27.2	29.0●	+0.3	..
Man Exempt	135.2	141.9	+5.5	..
Pacific Basin	25.7	27.4	-0.1	..

WINDSOR TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Windsor House, 83, Kingsway, London WC2B 6SD
01-405 8331

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Conv & Equity	62.6	66.6●	-0.1	6.04
Income	71.4	76.0	+1.3	3.49
Gth	73.0	77.7	+1.5	0.76
Prop Share	35.0	37.3●	+0.1	2.32

● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday. (20) 25th of month. (21) 2nd Thursday of month. (22) 1st and 3rd Wednesday of month. (23) 20th of month. (24) 3rd Tuesday of month. (25) 1st and 3rd Thursday of month. (26) 4th Tuesday of month. (27) 1st Wednesday of month. (28) Last Thursday of month. (29) 3rd working day of month. (30) 16th of month. (31) 1st working day of month. (32) 20th of month. (33) 1st day of February, May, August, November. (34) Last working day of month. (35) 15th of month. (36) 14th of month. (37) 21st of month. (38) 3rd Wednesday of month. (39) 2nd Wednesday of month. (40) Valued monthly. (41) Last Thursday of Stock Exchange account. (42) Last day of month. (43) 2nd and 4th Wednesday of month. (44) Quarterly. (45) 6th of month. (46) 2nd Tuesday of month.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

THIRD MARKET

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up at 75.6 (day's range 75.4-75.6).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for December 24

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.8245-1.8340	1.8320-1.8340	0.06-0.03pr	0.40-0.35pr
Montrl	2.3890-2.3961	2.3917-2.3961	par-0.17ds	0.06pr-.17ds
Amstrdm	3.3516-3.3709	3.3617-3.3709	1⅝-⅞pr	3⅝-3⅜pr
Brussels	62.22-62.72	62.47-62.72	19-1pr	43-22pr
Copnhgn	11.4907-11.5589	11.5198-11.5589	par-1⅛ds	1-2⅞ds
Dublin	1.1230-1.1240	1.1230-1.1240	6pr-par	11-3pr
Frankft	2.9785-2.9894	2.9788-2.9894	1½-⅞pr	4-3⅝pr
Lisbon	241.38-244.47	242.37-244.47	121-205ds	340-499ds
Madrid	202.07-203.67	202.07-203.67	25-63ds	136-186ds
Milan	2187.58-2204.47	2196.57-2204.47	1-8ds	9-19ds
Oslo	11.6357-11.6991	11.6680-11.6991	5½-7ds	17⅞-19⅞ds
Paris	10.0712-10.1191	10.0897-10.1191	par-1ds	⅛-1⅞ds
Stckhlm	10.8357-10.8868	10.8564-10.8868	par-⅞ds	⅞-2⅞ds
Tokyo	230.48-231.67	230.83-231.63	1-⅞pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Vienna	21.01-21.09	21.05-21.09	8-6⅝pr	23⅞-20⅝pr
Zurich	2.4156-2.4264	2.4164-2.4254	1⅛-⅞pr	3⅞-2⅞

* Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	8.2695-8.3854
Australia dollar	2.5558-2.5701
Bahrain dinar	0.6865-0.6905
Brazil cruzado*	126.34-127.54
Cyprus pound	0.8050-0.8150
Finland marka	7.3775-7.4175
Greece drachma	235.00-237.00
Hong Kong dollar	14.209-14.258
India rupee	23.62-23.82
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4970-0.5010
Malaysia dollar	4.5667-4.5830
Mexico peso	39.90-40.40
New Zealand dollar	2.8067-2.8318
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.8275-6.8575
Singapore dollar	3.6417-3.6609
S Africa rand (fin)	5.6666-5.7607
S Africa rand (com)	3.5812-3.5981
U A E dirham	6.6850-6.7250

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by Extel and Barclays Bank HOFEX

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.6265-1.6285	Denmark	6.3025-6.3125	Italy	1193.0-1198.0
Singapore	1.9900-1.9950	W Germany	1.6260-1.6280	Belgium (Com)	34.00-34.15
Malaysia	2.4955-2.4975	Switzerland	1.3230-1.3250	Hong Kong	7.7650-7.7700
Australia	0.7140-0.7160	Netherlands	1.8310-1.8330	Portugal	133.30-134.00
Canada	1.3065-1.3080	France	5.5151-5.5251	Spain	110.75-111.25
Sweden	5.9300-5.9400	Japan	126.00-126.20	Austria	11.48-11.52
Norway	6.3750-6.3850				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 8½ Finance Hse 9½
Discount Market Loans %
Overnight High: 8½ Low 4 Week fixed: 8½
Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying: 2 mth — 8⅝ 3 mth — 8¹¹⁄₃₂
Selling: 2 mth — 8⅜ 3 mth — 8⅜
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 mth: 8⅝-8⁹⁄₁₆ 2 mth: 8¹³⁄₃₂-8¹¹⁄₃₂ 3 mth: 8¹³⁄₃₂-8¹¹⁄₃₂
6 mth 8²³⁄₃₂-8²¹⁄₃₂
Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 mth: 9 2 mth: 9¹⁄₃₂ 3 mth: 9¹⁄₃₂
6 mth 9¹³⁄₃₂
Interbank (%). Overnight: open 8½ close 6
1 week: 8⅝-8⅜ 1 mth: 8¹¹⁄₁₆-8⅝ 3 mth: 8¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹³⁄₁₆
6 mth: 9⅜-9¹⁄₁₆ 9 mth: 9⁵⁄₁₆-9³⁄₁₆ 12 mth: 9⅜-9⁷⁄₁₆
Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 day: 8⅜ 7 day: 8⅜ 1 mth: 8⅝
3 mth: 8⅞ 6 mth: 9 12 mth: 9⅜
Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 mth: 8¹¹⁄₁₆-8⁷⁄₁₆ 2 mth: 8⅞-8⅝ 3 mth: 8¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆
6 mth: 9⅜-8⅞ 9 mth: 9⅜-9⅜ 12 mth: 9⅜-9⅜
Sterling CDs (%)
1 mth: 8½-8⅜ 3 mth: 8¹³⁄₁₆-8¹¹⁄₁₆ 6 mth: 9¹⁄₁₆-8¹⁵⁄₁₆
12 mth: 9⅜-9⅜

Dollar CDs (%)
1 mth: 8.20-8.15 3 mth: 7.80-7.75 6 mth: 7.80-7.75
12 mth: 8.10-8.05

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar: Call: 6⅜-5⅜	10⅜-9⅞	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹³⁄₁₆	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹³⁄₁₆	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-¹³⁄₁₆
Deutschemark: Call: 3⅜-2⅜	5-4⅜	3¹³⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆	3¹³⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆	3¹³⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆
French Franc: Call: 8⅜-7⅜	9⅜-9	9⅜-9	9⅜-9⅜	9⁵⁄₁₆-9³⁄₁₆
Swiss Franc: Call: 1⅜-⅜	6⅜-6	3¹³⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆	3¹³⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆	3¹³⁄₁₆-¹¹⁄₁₆
Yen: Call: 3⅜-2⅜	5⅜-4⅜	4⁹⁄₁₆-4⁷⁄₁₆	4½-4⅜	4½-4⅜

TREASURY BILLS

Applicts: £451m allotted: £100m
Bids: £97.935% received: 75%
Last week: £97.925% received: 33%
Avge rate: £8.2807% last wk £8.3007%
Next week: £100m replace £100m

GOLD

BULLION:
Open: $483.50-484.25 Close: $483.50-484.25
High: $483.50-484.25 Low: $483.50-484.25

COINS: Per coin (*Ex VAT)
Britannia: $498.00-503.00 (£272.00-275.00)
Krugerrand*: $482.50-485.50 (£263.50-265.50)
Mapleleaf (1oz): $498.00-503.00 (£272.00-275.00)
American Eagles: $498.00-503.00 (£272.00-275.00)
New Sovereigns*: $113.50-114.50 (£62.00-62.75)
Old Sovereigns*: $113.50-115.00 (£62.00-63.00)
Platinum: $503.20 (£275.60)
Palladium: $120.25 (£65.85)
Silver: $6.73-6.75 (£3.675-3.690)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Sterling		Previous open interest 24097			
Mar 88	90.85	90.93	90.85	90.93	743
Jun 88	90.65	90.66	90.66	90.64	1
Sep 88	NT	—	—	90.43	0
Dec 88	NT	—	—	90.20	0
Mar 89	NT	—	—	90.00	0
Jun 89	NT	—	—	89.77	0
Three Month Eurodollar		Previous open interest 24382			
Mar 88	92.50	92.42	92.39	92.40	490
Jun 88	92.13	92.13	92.11	92.13	123
Sep 88	91.85	91.85	91.85	91.84	15
Dec 88	NT	—	—	91.51	0
Mar 89	NT	—	—	91.33	0
Jun 89	NT	—	—	91.12	0

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
US Treasury Bond		Previous open interest 5949			
Mar 88	88-30	89-05	88-28	89-01	400
Jun 88	NT	—	—	88-06	0
Sep 88	NT	—	—	—	
Long Gilt		Previous open interest 23855			
Dec 87	NT	—	—	119-11	0
Mar 88	118-14	119-09	118-12	119-08	4326
FT-SE 100		Previous open interest 7739			
Dec 87	178.50	179.40	178.50	179.00	425
Mar 88	180.90	182.20	180.90	182.00	132
Japanese Govt Bond		Previous open interest 531			
Mar 88	106.65	106.75	106.64	106.68	20
Jun 88	NT	—	—	106.180	

COMMODITIES

ICIS-LOR Group
Markets are shrouded in uncertainty following several days of volatile and nervous trading. Prices fell by $3 after the Opec meeting, and have since rebounded strongly ahead of the holiday on the perception that several countries are exhibiting production restraint.

CRUDE OILS/assessed ($/BBL FOB)

Brent Phys	16.95	+55
15 day Jan	17.50	+50
15 day Feb	16.50	+35
WTI Feb	16.60	+15
WTI Mar	16.50	+30

PRODUCTS Buy/sell $/MT.
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery

Prem Gas .15		164-166	
Gasoil EEC	+3	155-157	+2
Non 2H Dec	+5	154-156	+4
Non 1H Jan	+6	154-156	+5
3.5 Fuel Oil	+5	78-80	+5
Naphta	+3	141-143	+3

BIFFEX
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)
Jan 88 Hi 1290-1286 Low Close 1288.5
Apr 88 Hi 1303-1298 Low Close 1298.5
Jul 88 Hi —— Low Close 1157.5
Oct 88 Hi —— Low Close 1255.0
Vol 54 lots Open interest 1882
Dry cargo index 1282.5 +0.5 on 23/12/87

GAS OIL G W Joynson

Jan	150.50-50.75
Feb	145.75-46.00
Mar	140.50-40.75
Apr	135.00-36.00
May	134.75-35.00
Jun	135.00-38.00
Jul	134.00-35.00
Aug	135.00-37.00
Sep	135.00-39.00
Vol	1339

HVY FUEL OIL Reuter
Jan unq.
Feb
Vol 0

LONDON POTATO FUTURES (£/tonne)

Mth	Open	Close
Feb	unq.	unq.
Mar	85.60	89.40
Apr	144.50	144.80
May	158.00	159.00
		Vol 20

LONDON FOX

COCOA G W Joynson
Dec 1036-045 Sep 1120-121
Mar 1063-064 Dec 1144-145
May 1081-083 Mar 1169-170
Jul 1101-100 Vol 3834

COFFEE G W Joynson
Jan 1217-219 Sep 1300-303
Mar 1246-247 Nov 1312-318
May 1262-264 Jan 1330-338
Jul 1282-284 Vol 1083

SUGAR C Czarnikow
FOB Vol: 1278
Mar 207.4-07.8 Oct 205.8-08.4
May 206.4-08.6 Dec 206.0-08.0
Aug 204.6-06.0 Mar 209.0-12.0

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT close (£/t) Vol 67
Ja 113.50 Mr 114.90 My 117.20
Jl 119.70 Sp 103.60 Nv 105.75
BARLEY close (£/t) Vol 24
Ja 106.95 Mr 108.80 My 110.50
Sp 98.20 Nv 100.50 Ja unq.
SOYABEAN
Feb 142.0-40.0 Aug 122.0-20.0
Apr 136.0-35.0 Oct 121.5-19.5
Jun 127.0-26.0 Dec 125.0-21.0
Vol 0

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official prices/volume previous day — Rudolf Wolf

(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol	Tone
Copper Gde A	1705.0-1710.0	1453.0-1455.0	256550	Strong
Copper Stand	1525.0-1550.0	1420.0-1425.0	325	Quiet
Lead	372.00-374.00	356.00-357.00	66700	Easier
Zinc Hi Gde	483.00-484.00	471.00-472.00	46575	Easier
Silver Large†	670.00-672.00	684.00-686.00	115	Idle
Silver Small†	670.00-672.00	684.00-686.00	Nil	Idle
Aluminium	1075.0-1077.0	1007.0-1008.0	196025	Firmer
Aluminium HP	1990.0-1980.0	1865.0-1875.0	29325	Quiet
Nickel	5070-5080	4800-4810	5888	Strong

† (Cents per Troy oz). * ($ per tonne)

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (/kg)
Live Pig Contract

Mth	Open	Close
Feb	n/a	—
Apr	—	—
Jun	—	—
Aug	—	—

Live Cattle Contract

Jan	n/a	—
Feb	—	—
Apr	—	—

Vol Pig — Cattle —

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Av'ge fatstock prices at representative markets on December 23

(/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB (p)	72.40	190.33	105.17
GB (+/−)	−1.85	*−5.23	+0.56
Eng/Wal (%)	−84.3	−80.5	−86.6
Eng/Wal (p)	70.82	189.83	105.26
Eng/Wal (+/−)	−3.43	+3.85	+0.52
Scotland (%)	n/a	+141.4	−10.8
Scotland (p)	74.34	184.20	105.12
Scotland (+/−)	n/a	−8.59	+1.01

*Estimated dead carcase weight

هكذا من الأصل

كذا من الاجل

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Recovery continues

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 21. Dealings end January 8. §Contango day January 11. Settlement day January 18.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 22)

Portfolio —Gold—

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Meat Trade Supp	Foods	
2	Dubilier	Electricals	
3	McInerney	Property	
4	Mowlem (John)	Building,Roads	
5	Pifco	Electricals	
6	Burton (aa)	Drapery,Stores	
7	Hepworth Ceramic	Industrials E-K	
8	FR Group	Motors,Aircraft	
9	Utd Guarantee	Industrials S-Z	
10	Allied Irish	Banks,Discount	
11	T & N (aa)	Industrials S-Z	
12	Avis Europe	Industrials A-D	
13	Midland (aa)	Banks,Discount	
14	Siebe	Industrials S-Z	
15	Beecham (aa)	Industrials A-D	
16	Croda	Chemicals,Plas	
17	Trinity Intl	Newspapers,Pub	
18	Dalgety (aa)	Industrials A-D	
19	Stylo	Shoes,Leather	
20	Lucas (aa)	Motors,Aircraft	
21	BICC (aa)	Electricals	
22	Sandell Perkins	Building,Roads	
23	Lon & Metro	Property	
24	Ward White	Drapery,Stores	
25	Provident	Banks,Discount	
26	Crowther (J)	Textiles	
27	New London Oil	Oil & Gas	
28	Priest Marians	Property	
29	Banks (Sidney C)	Foods	
30	Vaux Grp	Breweries	
31	Ans New Z	Banks,Discount	
32	Scot TV	Cinemas,Tv	
33	Nat West (aa)	Banks,Discount	
34	Desoutter	Industrials A-D	
35	Cowder Grp	Building,Roads	
36	Ward Hldgs	Building,Roads	
37	Bus Mortgage	Banks,Discount	
38	Amstrad (aa)	Electricals	
39	Lopex	Paper,Print,Adv	
40	Burmah (aa)	Oil & Gas	
41	Armstrong	Motors,Aircraft	
42	Laing (J)	Building,Roads	
43	YRM	Building,Roads	
44	Tesco (aa)	Foods	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Portfolio —Gold—

DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for
+50 points

WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£8,000
Claims required for
+185 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1987 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
165	48	Rea Bros	67	77	..	2.0	2.8	13.7
216	113	Rothschild (J) Hld	152	160	+2	8.2	5.3	8.3
449	273	Ryl Bk Scot (aa)	360	365	●-1	17.4	4.8	5.7
17	705	Schroders	6½	10	-¼	22.8	2.4	14.4
843	122	Stand Chart (aa)	485	505	-1	48.0	9.8	6.2
154	97	TSB (aa)	116	119	+2	6.5	5.5	
10¼	580	Union	775	800	..	63.0	8.0	9.1
579	263	Warburg SG	337	345	+1	14.4	4.2	..
198	102	Do 6¾% 'A'	120	123	..	8.2	6.7	..
37⅞	21	Wells Fargo	24⅝		+1¼			
550	290	Wintrust	430	455	..	8.5	1.9	17.4

BREWERIES

1987 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
471	308	Allied-Lyons (aa)	348	355	●+3	16.2	4.8	10.4
10½	728	Bass (aa)	820	835	●-1	28.8	3.2	11.6
77	35	Belhaven	44	46	●+1	1.3	2.9	16.2
233	124	Boddington	137	142	+1	5.1	3.6	15.3
795	537	Brown (Matthew)	620	640	..	19.2b	3.0	22.0
246	171	Buckleys	188	177	..	4.4	2.5	53.4
239	139	Bulmer (H P)	155	165	●+1	8.2	5.1	11.4
195	124	Burtonwood Brew	120	130	● ..	4.0	3.2	20.2
535	365	Clark (Matthew)	360	370	● ..	12.3	3.4	12.2
381	202	Devenish (J A)	285	295	●+1	4.1	1.4	16.4
279½	150	Greenall Whitley	182	190	● ..	8.2	4.4	9.5
483	258	Greene King	443	450	● ..	9.3	2.1	23.0
390	225	Guinness (aa)	292	297	+2	12.5	4.3	10.5
795	473	Hardys & Hansons	675	685	..	29.5	4.3	12.8
97	66	Highland Dist	76	79	● ..	3.4	4.4	12.2
223	138	Invergordon Dist	162	172	+1	7.5	4.5	10.9
248	145	Irish Dist	155	175	● ..	8.0	3.8	..
154	112	Marston Thompson	110	113	● ..	3.8	3.2	14.2
603	345	Morland	460	475	● ..	10.8	2.3	13.3
470	131	SA Breweries	287	312	● ..			
270	178	Scot & New (aa)	213	217	●-1	11.3	5.3	12.0
599	465	Vaux Grp	478	488	●+1	19.5	4.0	14.8
395	251	Whitbread 'A' (aa)	288	293	●+1	12.8	4.3	12.3
400	248	Do 'B'	290	310	●+1	12.6	4.2	12.7
374	210	Whitbread Inv	275	285	●+1	11.8	4.1	32.8
424	277½	Wolverhampton & D	343	353	● ..	8.0	2.3	19.8
477	274	Young 'A'	335	355	..	12.3	3.6	20.1

BUILDING, ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS, TV

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E-K

L-R

S-Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 26

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHIPPING

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
709	389	BAT (aa)	455	450	+3	21.0	4.6	10.8
128	118	Carroll	115	140				
499	336	Rothmans 'B' (aa)	396	400	●+15	11.2	2.8	11.0

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension

RACING: ELSWORTH'S GREY HAS THE CLASS TO COLLECT A SECOND KING GEORGE

Desert Orchid can win tactical battle

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

With Beau Ranger, Cybrandian and Desert Orchid all standing their ground, today's King George VI Rank Chase looks like developing into a fascinating battle of tactics which should absorb the anticipated big crowd at Kempton Park.

Beau Ranger and Cybrandian are both confirmed front-runners while Desert Orchid succeeding in making all the running in the race 12 months ago. You do not have to be a clairvoyant to picture them cutting one another's throats, thus paving the way for one to come from behind.

Last time at Haydock Park the revitalized Beau Ranger's aggressive approach soon saw off Cybrandian, but can he do the same to Desert Orchid?

That is the $64,000 question, and in my opinion the key to today's outcome could easily lie in the fact that Desert Orchid does not have to make all the running.

Without wishing to give away any secrets or disclose tactics to the opposition, his jockey Colin Brown agreed yesterday that Desert Orchid does not have to lead and that it would be madness for him and Beau Ranger to tear away at each other's throats.

To support his case he pointed to last season's Gainsborough Chase at Sandown where the spring-heeled grey proved most amenable to restraint.

The important thing is that Desert Orchid has the speed to stay in touch, which none of his rivals had last year when he managed to give them the slip. In the circumstances I will be disappointed if his own peculiar blend of speed and stamina, allied to his class, does not win the day again and enable him to join the elite who have won the race twice.

Added spice is provided on this occasion by the presence of the French challenger Nupsala, who will be ridden by Andre Pommier.

The scale of his task can be measured by knowing that it took a horse of the class of my own hero Mandarin to win both the King George and the Grand Steeplechase de Paris in the late 'fifties and early 'sixties.

Smart that Nupsala has shown himself to be in his own country he has still only managed to finish second in the big Auteuil chase so far and this will be his first glimpse of our stiffer fences.'

If there is a horse capable of picking off the front-runners towards the end it is surely the 1985 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Forgive'N Forget.

Yet even he failed this acid test 12 months ago when he trailed in a long way behind Desert Orchid, as did Bolands Cross, whose preparation for today's moment of truth was hardly improved by that disastrous failure at Lingfield a fortnight ago.

Simon Sherwood: fine treble prospects at Kempton Park

No matter how Bolands Cross fares, jockey Simon Sherwood, standing in for Peter Scudamore in the big race, can still enjoy the occasion by landing a treble for brother Oliver on **Rebel Song** (12.45), **Chasing The Dragon** (1.45) and **The West Awake** (2.50).

While maintaining that he still thinks the world of both Rebel Song and The West Awake, Sherwood freely admits that they still have something to prove, so Chasing The Dragon is my nap of the day to win the Royal Garden Hotel Handicap Hurdle.

When successful at Huntingdon earlier this month he gave Gods Law 22lb and a short head beating. With Gods Law then bolting in at Ayr next time out that form looks gilt-edged.

Another attractive proposition is **Bonanza Boy**, my selection for the Butlin's Feltham Novices' Chase. There was a lot to like about the way he stuck to his guns at Ascot last Saturday.

Meanwhile, veteran trainer Fulke Walwyn's hopes of winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup a fifth time will come alive again if Ten Plus manages to win the Mid Season Chase at Wincanton first time out.

Last winter he appeared to have the world at his feet when be won his first chase at Newbury in some style following a spell of high-class hurdling which took in that memorable triumph in the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham.

However, although he has been dogged by a chapter of accidents since, the word from Saxon House now is that he is ready to stage a powerful comeback.

Following successive wins at Plumpton and Lingfield Park, **Mr Key** looks like scoring again in the Boxing Day Handicap Chase.

Also on the Somerset course **Imperial Champagne** looks to have outstanding claims in the Harry Dufosee Handicap Chase, having beaten Numerate and Rhyme 'N' Reason in a tight finish over the same course and distance four weeks ago. In the meantime, both the second and the third have won.

In the intended event of Forgive'N Forget taking on the cracks again at Kempton instead of running in the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby, the most interesting aspect of the programme on the Yorkshire course will surely be **City Entertainer's** third run over fences in the John Haggas Memorial Novices' Chase.

Charlotte Postlethwaite's six-year-old won his first chase very easily at Worcester and he had his second at his mercy at Newcastle when he came down two fences from home. He is certainly worth another chance.

BIG RACE FIELD C4

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Grade I: £31,400: 3m) (10 runners)

401 3PP-211 BEAU RANGER 31 (C,D,F,G,S) (White Bros Taunton Ltd) M Pipe 9-11-10 .... P Scudamore [illegible]
(White, dark blue stripe, dark blue and white striped sleeves and cap)
402 33U4-10 BOLANDS CROSS 14 (C,D,BF,G,S) (Sheikh A Khaimah) N Gaselee 8-11-10 .. S Sherwood [illegible]
(Red, black chevrons on body)
403 223F21 CASTLE ANDREA 14 (CD,G,S) (D Jeffries) D Jeffries 9-11-10 .... M Jeffries [illegible]
(Brown, orange disc, orange cap brown spots)
404 04-3330 CASTLE WARDEN 7 (CD,F,G,S) (M Shone) J Edwards 10-11-10 .... T Morgan [illegible]
(Red, white sleeves, red and grey segmented cap)
405 F23-132 CYBRANDIAN 21 (D,BF,F,G,S) (I Bray) M H Easterby 9-11-10 .... R Beggan [illegible]
(Light blue, red cross of Lorraine, red cap)
406 31P-112 DESERT ORCHID 21 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (R Burridge) D Elsworth 8-11-10 .... C Brown ● [illegible]
(Dark blue, grey sleeves and cap)
407 11410-2 FORGIVE'N FORGET 31 (D,G,S) (Kilroe Civil Eng Ltd) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10-11-10 M Dwyer [illegible]
(Yellow, orange spots, orange cap)
408 1021-1R GOLDEN FRIEND 56 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (D Meade) Mrs M Rimell 9-11-10 .... D Browne [illegible]
(Orange, dark green stripe)
409 2-110F3 NUPSALA 33 (B,S) (Mrs R Fougedoire) F Doumen (Fr) 8-11-10 .... A Pommier —
(Green, yellow seams and cap)
410 1FB1-13 TICKITE BOO 42 (D,F,G,S) (W O'Gorman) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-10 .... R Rowe [illegible]
(Yellow, dark blue hoops, yellow sleeves and cap)

● Tickite Boo is a doubtful runner

BETTING: 10-11 Desert Orchid, 4-1 Forgive'N Forget, 9-2 Beau Ranger, 16-1 Golden Friend, Cybrandian, 20-1 Tickite Boo, Bolands Cross, 33-1 Nupsala, 100-1 Castle Warden, 500-1 Castle Andrea.

1986: DESERT ORCHID 7-11-0 S Sherwood (16-1) D Elsworth 9 ran

FORM BEAU RANGER (10-12) won by 20l from Forgive'N Forget (12-0) at Haydock (3m cond, £7,572, soft, Nov 25, 3 ran) with Cybrandian (11-7) another 20l away last. Previously (10-2) beat Gee-A (10-1) 15l at Cheltenham (2m 4f h'cap, £14,512, soft, Nov 14, 14 ran) with Tickite Boo (10-13) ¾l away 3rd.

CASTLE ANDREA (10-3) beat Golden Minstrel (11-10) a length at Towcester (3m 190yd h'cap, £2,693, good to soft, Dec 12, 7 ran). Previously (11-0) 25l second to Glenside Jerry (10-12) at same track (3m 190yd h'cap, £2,603, soft, Nov 19, 8 ran).

CASTLE WARDEN (10-7) well-beaten 7th of 10 finishers to Cavvies Clown (10-11) in SGB Chase at Ascot last Saturday (3m h'cap, £14,984, good to soft, 12 ran). Previously (11-10) 12l 3rd to Choice Of Critics (10-0) at Folkestone (3m 2f h'cap, £3,856, good to soft, Nov 21, 7 ran).

CYBRANDIAN (11-8) 7l second to Western Sunset (11-4) in match at Chepstow last time (3m cond, soft). Showed best form when (12-0) 1½l 2nd to The Thinker (12-0) in the Cheltenham Gold Cup (3m 2f cond, £55,500, good to soft, Mar 19, 12 ran) with Golden Friend (12-0) 10l away 6th and Forgive'N Forget (12-0) another 7l away 7th. Bolands Cross (12-0) unseated his rider at the 15th.

DESERT ORCHID (12-0) 3l 2nd to Long Engagement (10-2) at Sandown (2m 18yd h'cap, £8,796, good, Dec 5, 5 ran). Won this race last year (11-10) by 15l from Door Latch (11-10) with Bolands Cross (11-10) 21l back in 3rd, Forgive'N Forget (11-10) another 1l away 4th and Beau Ranger (11-10) pulled up (£31,696, soft, Dec 26, 9 ran).

BOLANDS CROSS (11-12) 25l 5th to Rhyme 'N' Reason (10-1) at Lingfield (3m h'cap, £10,470, good to soft, Dec 12, 6 ran). On reappearance (11-10) beat Against The Grain (11-0) 10l at Wincanton (3m 1f cond, £3,870, soft, Nov 12, 8 ran).

FORGIVE'N FORGET (12-0) beaten 20l by Beau Ranger (10-12) at Haydock with Cybrandian (11-7) 20l away last of 3 (3m cond, £7,572, soft, Nov 25, 3 ran). Was last successful when beating Very Promising (12-0) 8l at Leopardstown (3m cond, £49,850, soft, Feb 14, 9 ran) with Cybrandian (12-0) unseating his rider at the 11th.

GOLDEN FRIEND (11-6) was a well-beaten second when refusing at last in race won by Cybrandian (11-2) at Wetherby (3m 100yd cond, £9,588, good to soft, Oct 31, 4 ran). Previously (11-8) beat Little Polveir (11-8) 10l at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd cond, £2,954, soft, Oct 20, 6 ran).

NUPSALA (11-0) 3l 3rd to Quincy Triplet (11-0) at Enghien (2m 5f 110yd cond, £18,582, holding, Nov 23, 10 ran). In June 1986 (10-1) finished 1l second to Otage Du Perche (10-1) in £54,800 chase at Auteuil (10-1) (2m 5f cond, good).

TICKITE BOO (10-13) 15l 3rd to Beau Ranger (10-2) in Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham on latest start (2m 4f h'cap, £14,512, soft, Nov 14, 14 ran). On seasonal debut (12-0) won by 1l from Samlee (11-8) at Newcastle (3m cond, £3,244, good to soft, Oct 26, 9 ran).

Selection: DESERT ORCHID

KEMPTON PARK

Selections
By Mandarin

12.45 Rebel Song.	2.20 Desert Orchid.
1.15 Bonanza Boy.	2.50 The West Awake.
1.45 CHASING THE DRAGON (nap).	3.20 Chemist Broker.

By Michael Seely
1.45 Jimmy Lorenzo. 2.50 THE WEST AWAKE (nap).
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.45 JIMMY LORENZO.

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 0-0432 TIMESFORM 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F-fell. P-pulled up. U-unseated rider. B-brought down. S-slipped up. R-refused). Horse's name. Days since last outing. (B-blinkers. V-visor. H-hood. E-Eyeshield. C-course winner. D-distance winner. CD-course and distance winner. BF-beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F-firm, good to firm, hard. G-good. S-soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. *The Times Private Handicapper's rating.*

Going: good

12.45 HAVEN NOVICES HURDLE (£3,662: 2m) (17 runners) C4

102 22/00-21 BILOXI BLUES 28 (G,S) (R Gilder) K Bailey 5-11-7 .... P Croucher ● 99
105 1330 LASHKAFDAL 21 (D,S) (T Ramsden) R Simpson 4-11-7 .... D Gallagher 94
108 00 BRANDON PIER 23 (G Greenwood) J Edwards 4-11-0 .... T Morgan 84
109 COINCIDENTAL (M Shone) J Edwards 5-11-0 .... — —
112 00/0- HIDDEN FORM 380 (D Donnelly) P McCarthy (Ire) 5-11-0 .... — —
113 F20-000 IMADYNA 14 (E Parker) D Barons 5-11-0 .... Mrs T Nicholls 77
115 3 LEMHILL 35 (H Joel) A Turnell 5-11-0 .... Steve Knight 98
116 0/3-0 LOCH BLUE 5 (R Castle) S Dow 5-11-0 .... A Jones 74
117 0 MALICHO 52 (Eastern Quartet Ltd) G Balding 4-11-0 .... R Rowe 70
119 4U0-200 MILTON BURN 8 (A Richards) H O'Neill 6-11-0 .... Peter Hobbs 72
120 4 OLYMPIC TIMES 35 (Running Horse Ltd) R Akehurst 5-11-0 .... D Browne 95
121 3 REBEL SONG 45 (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 5-11-0 .... S Sherwood 78
122 00 SON OF SPARKLER 86 (Mrs V Tuckerman) P Howling 4-11-0 .... NON-RUNNER —
123 SURE GROUND (Salisbury Farms Ltd) P Walwyn 4-11-0 .... R Beggan —
124 TERMINATOR (W O'Gorman) Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-11-0 .... M Dwyer —
125 11- THE HILL 420 (G) (Mrs O Jackson) F Winter 5-11-0 .... P Scudamore —
126 000- SHARSEAL 284 (Mrs P Plummer) D A Wilson 5-10-9 .... K Caplen (7) —

BETTING: 2-1 Lemhill, 11-4 Biloxi Blues, 5-1 Olympic Times, 7-1 Terminator, 10-1 The Hill, 12-1 Lashkafdal, Rebel Song, 16-1 Milton Burn, 20-1 others.

1986: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM BILOXI BLUES (11-0) odds on when pushed out to beat Drumlin Hill (11-0) 2½l at Newbury (2m 100yd, £2041, good, Nov 28, 19 ran).

LASHKAFDAL, tailed off last time, previously (11-7) 4½l 3rd to Vagador (11-7) at Newbury (2m 100yd, £2041, good, Nov 28, 19 ran).

LEMHILL (11-1) 4½l 3rd to Away We Go (11-6) on Ascot hurdling debut (2m, £3282, good to soft, Nov 21, 10 ran) with OLYMPIC TIMES (11-1) 3l 4th.

REBEL SONG (11-0) 13l 3rd to Hill's Pageant (11-5) on Newbury reappearance (2m 100yd, £1493, soft, Nov 11, 12 ran).

THE HILL (12-2) favourite when beating Mountain Meadow (11-8) 1½l in a Clonmel NH Flat race (2m, £966, good, Nov 1, 15 ran).

COINCIDENTAL was an above average 7f handicapper on the flat.

TERMINATOR, who handles soft ground well, showed best flat form when ¾l 3rd to Balthus in the Cambridgeshire (1m 1f).

Selection: LEMHILL

1.15 BUTLIN'S FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £8,091: 3m) (6 runners) C4

201 110-111 BONANZA BOY 7 (F,G,S) (S Dunster) P Hobbs 6-11-7 .... Peter Hobbs ● 99
203 F32F-1F TWIN OAKS 14 (CD,BF,G,S) (J Moreton) D Murray-Smith 7-11-4 .... P Croucher 94
204 BP BYNACONDRA 7 (Abbey Car Salvage Ltd) W Kemp 6-11-0 .... S Shilston —
206 200-131 DAD'S GAMBLE 8 (G,S) (R Gilder) J Gifford 6-11-0 .... R Rowe 87
207 114-121 MAJESTIC BUCK 30 (F,G,S) (D Peake) S Christian 7-11-0 .... R J Beggan 83
208 0F0-134 OUR NOBBY 18 (G,S) (R Bastien) M Madgwick 5-11-0 .... P Scudamore 70

BETTING: 11-10 Bonanza Boy, 2-1 Twin Oaks, 5-1 Dad's Gamble, 8-1 Majestic Buck, 20-1 Our Nobby, 50-1 Bynacondra.

1986: AHERLOW 6-11-0 R Beggan (13-8 fav) S Christian 6 ran

FORM BONANZA BOY (11-8) game 4l Ascot winner from Ballyhane (11-8) with BYNACONDRA (10-12) pulled up (2m 4f, £5921, good to soft, Dec 19, 7 ran). Should be even better over this extra half mile.

TWIN OAKS (11-6) beat Bob Tisdall (11-10) 10l over course and distance on penultimate start (£3263, good to soft, Nov 18, 6 ran).

DAD'S GAMBLE (11-8) did not jump well at Lingfield last time (2m 4f, £2088, heavy, Dec 16, 12 ran), but still beat Barge Pole (11-8) 2l.

MAJESTIC BUCK (11-7) 7l Wincanton winner from Pucks Place (11-10) (2m 5f, £1562, good, Nov 26, 19 ran).

OUR NOBBY (10-13) 5l 4th to Abba Lad (10-9) at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, £2462, good, Dec 8, 14 ran).

Selection: BONANZA BOY

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
S Christian	4	11	36.4	D Browne	3	13	23.1
J Edwards	7	25	28.0	E Murphy	4	18	22.2
N Gaselee	5	18	27.8	S Shilston	3	15	20.0
Mrs M Rimell	3	14	21.4	S Sherwood	8	59	13.6
J Gifford	8	46	17.4	C Brown	7	57	12.3
D Elsworth	10	58	17.2	R Rowe	6	54	11.1

1.45 ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,334: 2m) (17 runners) C4

301 20012- JUNIOR CITIZEN 249 (D,S) (W O'Gorman) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-10 .... M Dwyer 82
302 1401/3 INSULAR 35 (D,F,G) (Queen Mother) I Balding 7-11-8 .... E Murphy 82
303 121-413 JIMMY LORENZO 18 (D,F,S) (J De Mestre) P Hedger 6-11-7 .... I Shoemark (7) ● 99
305 100/3-00 SOLAR CLOUD 28 (CD,G,S) (M Dealey) D Nicholson 5-11-2 .... D Browne 92
307 21-01 CHASING THE DRAGON 25 (B,D,S) (Skeltools Ltd) O Sherwood 5-10-13 ... S Sherwood 84
309 2110-02 BROOKMOUNT 14 (D,F,S) (H Pelham) J Gifford 5-10-12 .... R Rowe 89
310 22-0014 JAZETAS 25 (S) (G Cooke) N Callaghan 4-10-11 .... Steve Knight 89
311 1-4F233 POWERLESS 14 (B,D,F,G,S) (P Rabl) K Bailey 6-10-10 .... P Croucher 90
312 00F-223 AMADIS 19 (D,G,S) (Turner Hobbs Home Centres Ltd) M Pipe 7-10-9 .... P Scudamore 89
313 41-0040 BATON MATCH 7 (D,F,G,S) (Communidata Ltd) J Edwards 7-10-6 .... T Morgan 98
314 4040-F1 FUEGO BOY 30 (D,G,S) (A Darlington) A J Wilson 7-10-2 .... S Cowley 90
316 143-000 PROBLEM CHILD 42 (G) (Amity Finance Ltd) R Akehurst 4-10-1 .... Dale McKeown 91
317 12-0048 ARBITRAGE 30 (CD,S) (D Bay) B Forsey 6-10-1 .... C Warren 91
318 1P0 TRUST THE IRISH 21 (D,S) (A Gardiner-Hill) H O'Neill 6-10-1 .... Peter Hobbs 82
320 F-02300 PIP 11 (D,F) (B Plaistowe) S Woodman 7-10-0 .... A Mulholland (7) 83
321 41- PINCTADA 292 (S) (T Ramsden) R Simpson 5-10-0 .... D Gallagher 70
322 14-400P BRENT RIVERSIDE 42 (D,F,S) (S Mason) G Balding 4-10-0 .... R Beggan 82

BETTING: 9-2 Jimmy Lorenzo, 7-1 Chasing The Dragon, 8-1 Brookmount, Insular, 9-1 Jazetas, 10-1 Amadis, 12-1 Fuego Boy, Pinctada, 14-1 Junior Citizen, 16-1 Arbitrage, Problem Child, 20-1 others.

1986: YABIS 5-11-7 P Scudamore (7-2 jt-fav) J Edwards 13 ran

FORM JIMMY LORENZO (11-5) 2½l 3rd to Southernair (11-2) at Fontwell (2m 2f, £5745, good, Dec 8, 9 ran). Previously (10-7) beat Beat The Retreat (11-11) 4l at Ascot (2m, £8316, good to soft, Nov 21, 6 ran) with INSULAR (10-10) ½l 3rd.

CHASING THE DRAGON (11-4) beat Gods Law (10-3) a short head at Huntingdon (2m 100yd, £3465, good to soft, Dec 1, 15 ran) with JAZETAS (11-8) 3½l 4th.

BROOKMOUNT (10-6) 10l 2nd to Juven Light (11-10) at Lingfield (2m, £4687, good to soft, Dec 12, 6 ran) with POWERLESS (10-0) 15l behind 3rd.

AMADIS (11-13) 11l 3rd to The Processor (11-3) at Worcester (2m, £1543, good, Dec 7, 16 ran).

FUEGO BOY (10-0) beat Donovan's Choice (10-0) 5l at Wincanton (2m, £4815, good, Nov 26, 8 ran).

Selection: JIMMY LORENZO

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE

SEE BIG RACE FIELD

2.50 BLUE LINE WAYWARD LAD NOVICES CHASE (£4,666: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

501 4030-01 YABIS 14 (F,S) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 6-11-12 .... T Morgan 95
503 2232-12 YEOMAN BROKER 14 (BF,G) (Mrs H Alwen) J Gifford 6-11-8 .... R Rowe 98
504 091 FARMLEA BOY 25 (D,S) (R Lavelle) G Balding 7-11-4 .... — 73
506 2211-12 THE WEST AWAKE 28 (B,BF,G,S) (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 6-11-4 .... S Sherwood ● 99
511 041-0 LOLLY'S BOY 14 (S) (Sybil Lady Joseph) Mrs M Rimell 6-11-0 .... D Browne —

BETTING: 4-6 The West Awake, 5-2 Yabis, 11-4 Yeoman Broker, 8-1 Lolly's Boy.

1986: TAWRIDGE 6-11-12 Steve Knight (6-1) A Turnell 8 ran

FORM YABIS (11-0) beat YEOMAN BROKER (11-4) 4l at Lingfield last time (2m, £5959, good to soft, Dec 12, 12 ran).

YEOMAN BROKER (11-1), despite some erratic jumping, stayed on strongly to beat Yank Brown (11-10) 4l at Wetherby previously (2m 50yd, £3980, good, Oct 14, 12 ran).

FARMLEA BOY (11-4) clear-cut 5l winner from Moss Connell (11-4) at Huntingdon (2m 4f, £1692, good to soft, Dec 1, 14 ran).

THE WEST AWAKE (11-0) 1½l 2nd to the much improved Private Views (11-5) at Newbury last time (2m 4f, £4262, good, Nov 28, 6 ran); previously (11-3) made successful chasing debut at Towcester (2m 5f 110yd, £1496, soft, Nov 19, 16 ran) beating Donald Davies (11-10) an emphatic 6l. Highly regarded.

LOLLY'S BOY 1l winner of a maiden hurdle on heavy ground at Limerick last December; (10-0) 11½l 8th to Admirals All (10-1) in a Cheltenham handicap hurdle latest start (2m 4f, £3939, good, Dec 12, 10 ran).

Selection: YEOMAN BROKER

3.20 SOUTHCOAST WORLD HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,132: 3m) (12 runners)

601 00/1032- VINO FESTA 322 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Perkins) S Christian 8-11-10 .... A Mulholland (7) 85
602 1402-P2 PRAIRIE OYSTER 38 (S) (M Dorey) O Sherwood 4-11-0 .... S Sherwood 91
603 10422-4 LONGGHURST 30 (B,G,S) (M Peters) M Pipe 4-10-13 .... P Scudamore ● 99
604 211-11P MOUNTAIN CRASH 25 (D,BF,F,G,S) (A Parker) J Edwards 7-10-3 .... T Morgan 97
606 0004-12 CHEMIST BROKER 43 (BF,F,S) (Food Brokers Ltd) R Akehurst 7-10-2 .... I Shoemark (7) 98
607 120-0F3 TIVIAN 29 (G,S) (Lady Matthews) I Matthews 7-10-1 .... G McCourt 98
608 0010-00 LOCKNER LAD 14 (S) (D Heath) R Parker 7-10-0 .... M Furlong 96
609 00P-004 GALLANT BUCK 21 (B,C,S) (J Stott) D Elsworth 7-10-0 .... — 98
610 1F-FF4 COLEMAN ABBEY 32 (F) (C Cronin) F Winter 5-10-0 .... — 97
612 00020/1 ATKINS 46 (S) (L Fuller) G Enright 6-10-0 .... E Murphy 78
613 432-004 SHIPWRIGHT 29 (S) (R Bamsey) H O'Neill 6-10-0 .... Peter Hobbs 88
614 10PP/PP SHROPSHIRE LAD 46 (F) (E Parker) D Barons 5-10-0 .... Mrs T Nicholls (4) —

BETTING: 11-4 Chemist Broker, 7-2 Prairie Oyster, 9-2 Longghurst, 7-1 Mountain Crash, 8-1 Tivian, 14-1 Vino Festa, Gallant Buck, 20-1 others.

1986: ASA SPADES 7-9-7 Miss T Davies (20-1) D Barons 15 ran

FORM VINO FESTA (10-3) 8l 2nd to Taberna Lord (10-0) at Sandown (2m 5f 75yd, £7961, good, Feb 7, 14 ran).

PRAIRIE OYSTER (11-6) 10l 2nd to Take No Trash (10-3) at Ascot (3m, £3345, good to soft, Nov 20, 13 ran).

LONGGHURST (11-1) 15½l 4th to Green Steps (10-7) in competitive Haydock handicap (2¾m, £3027, soft, Nov 26, 17 ran).

MOUNTAIN CRASH (10-13) best effort ½l defeat of First Romance (10-4) at Ascot (2m 4f, £3038, good to soft, Oct 28, 20 ran) with SHIPWRIGHT (10-6) well behind.

CHEMIST BROKER (10-10) 20l 2nd to Beech Road (11-10) at Cheltenham (2m 4f, £2702, soft, Nov 13, 18 ran).

TIVIAN (10-8) 9½l 3rd to Beech Road (11-11) at Newbury (2m 4f 120yd, £3720, good, Nov 27, 15 ran) with GALLANT BUCK (10-3) well behind.

ATKINS (10-10) beat Tasty Guy (10-7) 7l at Hereford (3m 1f sell, £798, heavy, Nov 10, 16 ran).

Selection: CHEMIST BROKER

● The top Irish novice chasers Abbey Glen and Wolf Of Badenoch meet in the Deinys Gold Medal Novices' Chase at Leopardstown today (*Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes*).

My preference is for Abbey Glen who, despite having to concede 6lb, promises to start a warm favourite and should make it four wins from five starts over fences.

WETHERBY

Selections
By Mandarin

1.00 Waterdale.	2.30 Pat Wollow.
1.30 Joint Sovereignty.	3.00 The Langholm Dyer.
2.00 City Entertainer.	3.35 Dromin Academy.

Going: good to soft

1.0 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,059: 2m) (20 runners)

5 04F ABADJERO 30 (Mrs B McKinney) A Fowler 11-0 .... M Murphy (7) 78
6 AL SHAMIKH (C Barber-Lomax) W Elsey 11-0 .... L Wyer —
7 00 BRANDON PIER 23 (G Greenwood) J Edwards 11-0 .... N Fearn (7) 85
8 CHANGE THE NAME (R Bethell) P Blockley 11-0 .... — —
9 0 FINAL AMBER 19 (J Hanson) W A Stephenson 11-0 .... C Grant —
11 GARRELGUM (Lord Hartington) N Crump 11-0 .... C Hawkins —
12 0- HAMSTERLEY WALK 252 (J Wright) N Chamberlain 11-0 .... A Orkney —
14 F JOHN CORBET 49 (J Thompson) D Lee 11-0 .... — —
15 LOCKHART FLAWSE (A W Jones) A Jones 11-0 .... Miss D Jones —
16 0 MIND YOUR BACK 28 (R Haggas) Jimmy Fitzgerald 11-0 .... — —
17 2-133 POWYS PRINCE 32 (BF,G) (M Evans) J Glover 11-0 .... N Tinkler 77
19 0 SCANDALOUS RUMOUR 14 (Mrs J Milligan) N Crump 11-0 .... D Casey (7) —
20 00 SILK THREAD 7 (G Tufts) R Whitaker 11-0 .... S Turner (7) —
21 4 WATERDALE 32 (M Silver) M W Easterby 11-0 .... P Tuck ● 99
22 0 ANRIKA 49 (D Lee) D Lee 10-9 .... — —
24 EFFICIENT (Miss M Benson) Miss M Benson 10-9 .... B Storey —
26 0 JELDAIRE 28 (D White) N Tinkler 10-9 .... M Hammond —
27 00 KITTY BLAKE 49 (B Temple) B Temple 10-9 .... J Hayes (7) —
28 800-03 MEGAN'S MOVE 23 (Miss D Slack) Mrs E Slack 10-9 .... Miss D Slack (7) 66
29 0 SUPER SUE 40 (Miss J Hey) P Beaumont 10-9 .... P Farrell (4) —

BETTING: 5-4 Waterdale, 5-1 Megan's Move, 7-1 Garrelgum, 8-1 Powys Prince, 10-1 Al Shamikh, Mind Your Back, 12-1 Abadjero, 14-1 others.

1986: HIGH PLAINS 11-7 R Dunwoody (5-4 fav) D Nicholson 17 ran

1.30 TOWTON HANDICAP CHASE (£5,217: 2m 4f 100yd) (9 runners)

3 12-210P VILLIERSTOWN 42 (CD,F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 8-11-13 .... K Jones 91
4 313214 FERGY FOSTER 8 (CD,F,G,S) (F Scotto) W A Stephenson 7-11-5 (6ex) .... C Grant 88
5 1144-10 JOINT SOVEREIGNTY 35 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (F Doyle) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-3 M Hammond 93
6 222-003 THE DIVIDER 8 (G,S) (Exors of late J Aitken) Mrs T Calder 9-11-0 .... C Hawkins 80
7 11-40P3 BARRYPHILIPS DISCO 21 (G,S) (I Ender) R Whitaker 10-10-12 .... P Tuck 81
9 13-2332 WHATS WHAT 21 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Bousfield) B Bousfield 8-10-0 .... B Storey ● 99
10 11P-01F ADEN APOLLO 21 (G,S) (J Sim) T Craig 8-10-0 .... D Nolan 92
11 3432-44 PAN ARCTIC 7 (G,S) (Mrs R Bill) T Bill 8-10-0 .... N Fearn (4) 85
13 40R-0FR RICHDEE 30 (C,F,G,S) (Miss D Dalzell) N Crump 11-10-0 .... D Casey (7) —

BETTING: 3-1 Whats What, 4-1 Fergy Foster, 11-2 Joint Sovereignty, 6-1 Villierstown, 7-1 Aden Apollo, 8-1 The Divider, 10-1 Barryphilips Disco, 14-1 Pan Arctic, 33-1 Richdee.

1986: CENTRE ATTRACTION 7-10-2 P Tuck (9-1) G W Richards 7 ran

2.0 JOHN HAGGAS MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (Listed race: £3,687: 3m 100yd) (7 runners)

3 102P-14 CITY ENTERTAINER 28 (BF,S) (A Haddock) Mrs C Postlethwaite 6-11-8 .... L Wyer ● 99
4 1100-11 HASSLE MONEY 28 (F,G,S) (Mrs B McKinney) G W Richards 5-11-7 .... P Tuck 84
5 3201F4 NAUTICAL JOKE 28 (S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 8-11-6 .... C Grant 90
7 F/200-41 CALIRA 32 (CD,G,S) (Mrs J Benson) Miss M Benson 8-11-1 .... — 78
8 2-20222 GREEN GORSE 14 (S) (S Green) N Crump 7-11-1 .... C Hawkins 82
9 0P/102P2 PAMPERING 28 (Mrs J Brockbank) J Brockbank 6-11-1 .... B Storey 78
10 PF TWICE LOVED 32 (G Rock) Mrs C Clark 6-11-1 .... A Orkney —

BETTING: 4-6 City Entertainer, 6-1 Nautical Joke, 7-1 Hassle Money, 10-1 Calira, Green Gorse, 14-1 Pampering, 50-1 Twice Loved.

1986: MR FRISK 7-11-6 A Jones (7-4 fav) K Bailey 5 ran

2.30 BICKERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,837: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

1 11F-1 GREEN STEPS 30 (G,S) (Lady A Bentinck) J Glover 5-11-10 .... NON-RUNNER —
3 1340-P4 ORBITAL MANOEUVERS 15 (F,G,S) (G Chipman) P Blockley 6-11-5 .... — 93
5 U33213 UNEX-PLAINED 8 (G,S) (B Eddishaw) G Moore 4-11-0 .... M Hammond 97
6 031-UF0 LACIDAR 7 (C,F,S) (Mrs E Seagrave) J Johnson 7-10-12 .... P Tuck 94
8 2-31 PAT WOLLOW 40 (S) (Mrs M Nowell) M H Easterby 5-10-7 .... L Wyer ● 99
11 342-204 CHRISTMAS HOLLY 7 (S) (R Wood) Mrs G Reveley 6-10-2 .... N Smith (7) 97
12 01-P40P BASSETT BOY 25 (S) (J Ross) J Jenkins 6-10-0 .... — 93
13 842-P03 MILFORD QUAY 31 (G) (W Jones) J Spearing 4-10-0 .... NON-RUNNER —
14 00/000-0 TRIPLE VENTURE 26 (F,G,S) (T Goonan) T Craig 6-10-0 .... A Jones —

BETTING: 6-4 Pat Wollow, 3-1 Unex-Plained, 7-2 Lacidar, 5-1 Christmas Holly, 8-1 Bassett Boy, 20-1 Triple Venture.

1986: WITHY BANK 4-11-4 L Wyer (13-8 fav) M H Easterby 10 ran

3.0 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £10,521: 3m 100yd) (6 runners)

1 11410-2 FORGIVE'N FORGET 31 (CD,G,S) (Kilroe Civil Eng Ltd) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10-12-0 .... — ● 99
3 41013P DURHAM EDITION 7 (F,S) (R Oxley) W A Stephenson 9-10-7 .... C Grant 88
4 2P-3122 THE LANGHOLM DYER 14 (F,G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill) G W Richards 8-10-3 P Tuck 94
5 04F-124 STRANDS OF GOLD 14 (CD,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-10-0 .... M Hammond 95
6 11-2142 YAHOO 21 (CD,F,S) (A Parker) J Edwards 6-10-0 .... L Wyer 92
9 11P-01F ADEN APOLLO 21 (G,S) (J Sim) T Craig 8-10-0 .... D Nolan 78

BETTING: 2-1 The Langholm Dyer, 11-4 Yahoo, 7-2 Durham Edition, 4-1 Strands Of Gold, 8-1 Aden Apollo.

1986: THE THINKER 8-11-6 R Dunwoody (12-1) W A Stephenson 8 ran

3.35 BOXING DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,130: 2m) (22 runners)

1 310 DROMIN ACADEMY 32 (S) (A Parker) J Edwards 6-11-10 .... C Grant 88
2 PF4P1F BALLYEA LAD 49 (D,G) (J Hanson) J Hanson 4-11-10 .... M Hammond 89
3 01 HONEST TOIL 39 (D,S) (D Buckley) R Whitaker 4-11-10 .... Mr S Whitaker (7) ● 99
4 0/4-0 BALLINAGORE GAA 30 (R Falers) J J O'Neill 6-11-6 .... P Tuck 84
6 21 WATERSIDE LODGE 29 (D,S) (Mrs A Scott) M Fetherston-Godley 4-11-2 .... — 93
7 0034- DELANNIE 231 (J Hanson) J Hanson 5-11-1 .... L Wyer 89
8 004-030 MOULKINS 23 (Tarleton Box Co Ltd) Capt J Wilson 5-10-9 .... — 88
9 0000-30 MRS CHRIS 14 (Mrs H North) M Naughton 5-10-8 .... D Condell 67
11 0P-0 OH DEAR 73 (J O'Neill) J J O'Neill 5-10-7 .... — —
13 0P00- TOP ROW 296 (J Zochonis) A W Jones 4-10-6 .... Miss D Jones 89
14 0000/0 CAROUSEL CROSSETT 39 (E Caine) E Caine 6-10-5 .... Miss A Dable (7) —
15 0000-40 DANISH CHIEF 36 (Mrs V Wood) K Morgan 6-10-3 .... — 95
17 0F3000 QUALITAIR KING 14 (Qualitair Hotels) G Kelly 4-10-3 .... A Orkney 97
18 0F03-00 RED DESIREE 7 (J Burlinson) N Chamberlain 5-10-1 .... K Jones 92
19 000/0- THE PAPPARAZI 371 (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 7-10-0 .... D Murphy —
20 000/ WESTERN REVIVAL 808 (W Tinning) W Tinning 5-10-0 .... — —
21 424- LARNEM 437 (R Cartwright) T Fairhurst 4-10-0 .... C Hawkins 98
22 00/000 MILDALE 14 (P Williams) A Potts 5-10-0 .... P Farrell (4) 92
23 0P-000 DON'T BE SILLY 19 (G Ennor) Mrs C Clark 6-10-0 .... — —
24 FPP-PP0 SPRING GARDEN 59 (M Morley) N Chamberlain 4-10-0 .... B Storey —
26 0-00003 NIPPER SMITH 19 (W J Smith) W J Smith 4-10-0 .... P Harris (7) —
27 0U00-F0 JOHNNY FRENCHMAN 39 (R Bainbridge) A Watson 6-10-0 .... — —

BETTING: 7-2 Honest Toil, 5-1 Ballyea Lad, 6-1 Dromin Academy, 15-2 Delannie, 8-1 Danish Chief, 10-1 Mrs Chris, Qualitair King, 12-1 Ballinagore Gaa, Moulkins, 14-1 The Papparazi, 16-1 others.

1986: ATKINSONS 5-11-2 P Tuck (3-1 jt-fav) G W Richards 10 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
W Elsey	3	11	27.3	L Wyer	14	54	25.9
M H Easterby	27	122	22.1	P Tuck	14	102	13.7
Jimmy Fitzgerald	18	83	21.7	C Grant	16	137	11.7
G Richards	12	71	16.9				
M W Easterby	11	66	16.7				
W A Stephenson	28	178	15.7				

Only qualifiers.

WINCANTON

Selections
By Mandarin

12.30 Dark Sirona. 1.0 Mr Key. 1.30 Kentucky Quest. 2.0 Ten Plus. 2.30 Imperial Champagne. 3.0 Ghofar. 3.30 Tarahumara.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.0 Ten Plus.

Going: good to soft

12.30 FATHER CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: fillies and mares: £808: 2m) (16 runners)

1 011 RELATIVELY EASY 24 (D,S) D Nicholson 4-11-12 .... W Humphreys (7)
2 1102 SKEVENA 11 (B,F,G) D Elsworth 4-11-12 ... P Holley (7)
7 BET OLIVER D Jarmy 4-11-0 .... G Old
8 P-0 BOXERS SHUKEE 24 J M Bradley 4-11-0 .... G Davies
10 P BY CHANCE 11 C Widman 4-11-0 .... —
11 CAME VIEW 79 N Mitchell 5-11-0 .... Mr T Mitchell (7)
14 CLOVER SONG 217 Mrs P Townsley 5-11-0 R Goldstein
17 2 DARK SIRONA 18 D Arbuthnot 4-11-0 .... H Davies
25 MISTRESS ROSS G Thorner 4-11-0 ..... W McFarland (7)
31 QUAY WALL F Walwyn 4-11-0 .... R Chapman
32 0 REST AND WELCOME 65 G Balding 5-11-0 .. G Bradley
33 000 RICHARDS FOLLY 46 P Bailey 4-11-0 .... B Powell
36 0 SILENT TWIRL 8 J King 4-11-0 .... S McNeill
38 -04P SLEEPLINE SIESTA 12 R Holder 5-11-0 .... W Morris
39 SPINNING HAND P Hobbs 5-11-0 .... D Hood (7)
42 000 THE FURNITUREMAKER 12 D Gandolfo 4-11-0 .... G Landau

5-2 Relatively Easy, 4-1 Skevena, 11-2 Dark Sirona, 8-1 Rest And Welcome, 10-1 Quay Wall, 12-1 Mistress Ross.

1.0 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,075: 2m) (7)

2 1-2U DOUBLETON 21 (B,CD,F,G,S) C Popham 6-11-12 .... B Powell
4 -211 MR KEY 8 (D,G,S) D Murray-Smith 6-11-10 (6ex) .... K Mooney
7 0140 AKRAM 8 (CD,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-11-1 ..... W Irvine (7)
8 2-P0 FINNESKO 26 (D,G,S) S Christian 9-10-8 ..... G Landau
9 0200 MISTER FEATHERS 26 (B,D,F,G) J King 6-10-6 .... S McNeill
11 6343 KNOCKBRACK 19 (F,G) G Ham 7-10-0 .... A Jones
15 1P3- SCOTTISH AIR 220 (S) B Scriven 10-10-0 .... W Humphreys (7)

BETTING: 7-4 Mr Key, 3-1 Doubleton, 7-2 Akram, 6-1 Knockbrack, 12-1 Finnesko, 16-1 others.

1.30 STIRRUP CUP NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (£923: 2m) (21)

3 F01F DANNY'S LUCK 22 (CD,G) D Barons 5-11-10 .... N Hawke (7)
4 222 KENTUCKY QUEST 29 (BF) M Pipe 5-11-5 ..... J Lower
5 2123 REDGRAVE DEVIL 12 (D,BF,S) K Bishop 5-11-3 .... J Smith (7)
7 0F01 SHERWOOD FOREST 78 (D,G) J Sayers 5-11-2 .... E McKinley (4)
8 4-02 SILVER STRINGS 30 B Palling 7-11-1 .... C Evans
9 0-P RAMORE 24 C Jackson 5-11-0 .... —
10 00-B CAPE MANTON R Holder 6-10-13 .... —
12 00/0 AIR FLIGHT 46 C Popham 5-10-11 .... B Powell
13 -448 EL CITO 19 N Mitchell 10-10-8 ..... Mr T Mitchell (7)
14 2130 NOBLE EYRE 14 (S) D Gandolfo 6-10-7 .... —
15 0-00 AGFA SPECIAL 36 S Christian 6-10-7 .... W Morris
17 0P0 START BAY 46 D Barons 5-10-4 .... Mr B Towers
19 30U0 MANCHESTERSKYTRAIN 23 K Bishop 6-10-4 .... R Chapman
21 1002 MONTEFIASO 24 (D,G) R Hodges 5-10-2 .. W Irvine (7)
23 3400 CRIMSON LADY 8 P Rodford 6-10-1 W MacFarland (7)
24 300 PERFECT DESIGN 28 Miss J Thorne 5-10-1 ... N Dawe
25 0-00 FLEET ACTION 36 R Brazington 6-10-1 .... —
26 -009 LA BELLE ROSE 7 G Roe 5-10-0 ..... Candy Moore (4)
28 000/ CASTLE POOL 637 D Gandolfo 5-10-0 .... G Landau
29 /PPP GRAHAMES PADDY 22 Mrs P Townsley 7-10-0 .... R Goldstein
30 PP-0 SEAL POEM 33 R Dening 6-10-0 .... C Cox

4-1 Kentucky Quest, 9-2 Silver Strings, 5-1 Danny's Luck, 7-1 Redgrave Devil, 8-1 Montefiaso, 10-1 others.

2.0 MID SEASON CHASE (£5,371: 2m 5f) (8)

2 P1-0 GENERAL CHANDOS 14 (F,G,S) G Balding 6-11-6 .... G Bradley
3 P580 COMEDY LANE 30 (F) C Popham 8-11-2 .... B Powell
4 -101 CRADLE OF JAZZ 7 (F,G,S) J Old 7-11-2 ..... S McNeill
7 -121 MAJESTIC BUCK 30 (CD,F,G,S) S Christian 7-11-2 ..... —
8 03PP MARINERS DREAM 18 (F,S) N Mitchell 6-11-2 .... Mr T Mitchell (7)
9 00 PEARLY STEPS 38 (G) N Mitchell 8-11-2 .... —
10 2-11 PEGWELL BAY 29 (G) T Forster 6-11-2 ..... H Davies
11 /21- TEN PLUS 358 (G,S) F Walwyn 7-11-2 .... K Mooney

11-10 Ten Plus, 6-4 Pegwell Bay, 12-1 General Chandos, 14-1 Cradle Of Jazz, 16-1 Comedy Lane, 20-1 others.

2.30 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,383: 3m 1f) (12)

2 -400 FITZHERBERT 19 (B,D,F,G,S) C Popham 5-11-10 .... B Powell
3 2-20 LEWESDON PRINCE 36 (F,S) P Hobbs 10-11-10 .... K Mooney
4 -228 COURSE HUNTER 14 (G,S) D Murray-Smith 9-11-10 .... G Bradley
5 2-11 SPIDER'S WELL 24 (D,F,G,S) D Barons 11-11-7 ..... —
6 -0P3 BLUE DART 14 (G,S) T Forster 7-11-1 .... H Davies
10 0042 EASTER CARNIVAL 25 (CD,F,G,S) K Bishop 11-10-13 .... —
12 12-0 ROYAL GAMBIT 14 (G,S) J Gifford 7-10-12 .... Mr T Grantham
14 82F1 IMPERIAL CHAMPAGNE 30 (CD,G,S) Miss J Thorne 7-10-10 .... N Dawe
20 P-03 SILENT SURRENDER 25 (S) P Jones 7-10-0 R Goldstein
22 /314 TROOP THE COLOUR 32 (BF,G) D Nicholson 7-10-6 .... —
25 3-PP PREMON'S LAST 28 (S) J Old 11-10-0 .... —
26 PFP- GIDDYCAN 311 (D,G,S) M Pipe 11-10-0 .... —

7-2 Imperial Champagne, 4-1 Royal Gambit, 9-2 Blue Dart, 6-1 Course Hunter, 8-1 Lewesdon Prince, 10-1 Fitzherbert.

3.0 CORAL GOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,477: 2m 6f) (20)

4 1-08 HOORAH HENRY 21 (B,S) J Sayers 7-11-10 .. H Davies
5 3343 GHOFAR 7 (G) D Elsworth 4-11-6 .... P Holley (7)
6 4133 TENZING 21 (F,G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-7 .... C Cox
7 22-4 LONGGHURST 30 (B,G,S) M Pipe 4-11-6 .... —
10 02-P NIALAN 38 (G,S) N Thomson 7-10-13 .... —
14 0012 RUBY FLIGHT 42 (S) R Eckley 5-10-8 .... R Dowling
17 P-2F MILITARY BAND 47 (G,S) Mrs N Sharpe 9-10-7 .... K Mooney
20 -PP0 OBILANTARO 7 (G,S) C Vernon Miller 6-10-5 .... —
21 -103 MALADICTION 42 (S) Mrs M Rimell 6-10-5 .... M Bowlby
22 3-00 LORD MURPHY 21 (S) R Holder 5-10-3 .... P Murphy
23 1P-9 GREAT GANDER 42 (S) J Spearing 4-10-3 .... NON-RUNNER
26 000- MEISTER 249 (G,S) J Old 7-10-1 .... S McNeill
27 2-00 EN GOUNASI TREON 21 (B) G Doidge 5-10-1 .... —
30 -113 RIBOBINO 42 (C,BF,F,G) P Hayward 4-10-0 .... P Bowman (7)
34 -FF4 COLEMAN ABBEY 32 (F) F Winter 5-10-0 .... B Powell
37 0028 OWEN'S PRIDE 14 (S) M Usher 5-10-0 ..... R Chapman
39 63/0 NORTHERN FLATS 28 (G) W G M Turner 7-10-0 .... K Taylor
43 -F66 STRIKIT'S BROTHER 42 (G,S) Miss E Sneyd 9-10-0 .. —
44 -039 FREERACER 56 (F) S T Harris 5-10-0 .... C Mann
46 2FP- GOLDEN JUNE 226 D Tucker 5-10-0 .... W Irvine (7)

11-4 Ghofar, 7-2 Tenzing, 9-2 Maladiction, 6-1 Hoorah Henry, 7-1 Ruby Flight, 8-1 Nialan, 12-1 others.

3.30 FATHER CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: fillies and mares: £806: 2m) (15)

3 3400 HOPE COVE 22 (F,S) D Barons 5-11-6 ..... N Hawke (7)
5 P ALMOST AMERICA 24 A Barrow 4-11-0 .... B Powell
6 P- APRIL FOX 430 R Holder 4-11-0 .... W Morris
9 00 BUBBLING SPRINGS 31 T M Jones 5-11-0 ... K Mooney
12 CELTIC BOW N Mitchell 4-11-0 .... Mr T Mitchell (7)
18 00 COSMIC FLIGHT 18 M Usher 4-11-0 .... H Davies
19 0 G W SUPREME 25 N Mitchell 4-11-0 .... G Landau
21 4-0 IN MY DREAMS 64 J Weston 4-11-0 ... Jacqui Oliver (7)
22 0-40 KELLYANN 19 W Fisher 4-11-0 .... S McNeill
26 MORNING RUN N Thomson 5-11-0 .... Mr S Shinton
27 PF NEW CITY 12 B Palling 4-11-0 .... —
28 F- PADRO'S EXPRESS 365 R Hodges 5-11-0. W Irvine (7)
34 08-8 SHEER NECTAR 8 (BF) G Balding 4-11-0 ..... G Bradley
35 0-0 SHY HIKER 24 R Dickin 4-11-0 .... W Humphreys (7)
41 00-3 TARAHUMARA 11 J Gifford 5-11-0 ..... Mr T Grantham

5-2 Sheer Nectar, 3-1 Tarahumara, 4-1 Hope Cove, 6-1 Kellyann, 10-1 Cosmic Flight, 12-1 April Fox, 14-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: Mrs M Rimell, 5 winners from 17 runners, 29.4%; F Winter, 11 from 44, 25.0%; F Walwyn, 7 from 30, 23.3%; J Old, 3 from 13, 23.1%; J Gifford, 7 from 31, 22.6%; D Barons, 9 from 45, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: K Mooney, 7 winners from 47 rides, 14.9%; H Davies, 10 from 73, 13.7%. (Only qualifiers).

HUNTINGDON

Selections
By Mandarin

12.30 Alaska Run. 1.0 Farmlea Boy. 1.30 Jackdaw. 2.0 Mosof. 2.30 Lefrak City. 3.0 Highland Clipper.

Going: good to soft

12.30 ST IVO NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £1,081: 2m 4f) (19 runners)

1 441 ALASKA RUN 30 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-7 .. R Dunwoody
2 -123 ALEXANDRA PALACE 14 (F) J Gifford 6-11-7 .... T Pinfield (7)
3 -100 ICKWORTH 8 (S) Mrs D Haine 5-11-7 .... J White
4 -300 AH HELLO 15 J Jenkins 6-11-0 .... —
6 0-0P CHANCELLORSVILLE 44 P W Harris 5-11-0 .... G Charles-Jones
9 320 FARM WEEK 14 G Balding 5-11-0 .... R Guest (4)
11 FIFTH BRIGADE M Charles 7-11-0 .... M Bowlby
15 P-00 ITALIAN SUNRISE 28 (V) P Howling 5-11-0 .... R Crank
16 00 LOVER BILL 32 M Wilkinson 5-11-0 ..... C Llewellyn (4)
17 0-00 MADJOEC 31 C Tinkler 5-11-0 .... —
18 0-13 PARK RUN 15 (G,S) Mrs V Aconley 6-11-0 .... —
19 102/ PRINCE TOBIQUE 758 (F) J Spearing 6-11-0 .... Miss G Armytage
24 FP WOT NO SEAL 47 J Long 6-11-0 .... M Esterall (7)
25 04- BELS ANGEL 483 R Hollinshead 5-10-9 .... J Duggan
27 /00-0 DPS DELIGHT 12 C Bravery 5-10-9 .... G Moore
28 30-8 LADY CATCHER 18 J Bosley 5-10-9 .... M Bosley
30 3-RR MARITA ANN 28 (B) J Webber 5-10-9 ..... G Mernagh
33 /2-00 TANTE MARIE 7 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-9 .... M Pitman
34 4 TOPSY BEE 24 T Forster 5-10-9 .... L Harvey

2-1 Farm Week, 7-2 Alaska Run, 5-1 Alexandra Palace, 6-1 Ickworth, Topsy Bee, 10-1 Tante Marie, 12-1 others.

1.0 PEPYS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£1,649: 2m 4f) (18)

4 040 FESTIVE QUIZ 33 (V) B Smart 5-11-4 .... —
5 1334 MISTER BUTLER 28 (F,G) P J Jones 8-11-3 .... NON-RUNNER
6 F-00 HALF BROTHER 30 (S) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-2 G McCourt
7 00-U HOT HANDED 58 (F,G) C Nash 6-11-2 .... M Bosley
8 001 FARMLEA BOY 25 (CD,S) G Balding 7-10-11 R Guest (4)
9 -089 KEYBOARD KING 14 (S) D Wilson 6-10-8 .... Mr K Cartwright (7)
10 2/82 MONSOON 5 (F) A Bailey 6-10-7 .... S Keightley
11 -FF0 BEECH GROVE 30 (S) T Forster 6-10-3 C Llewellyn (4)
13 -000 EYE FLASHER 25 (B,S) M Skinner 5-10-0. S Woods (4)
14 P000 MISS FELHAM 14 (B,G) T Casey 6-10-0 .... G Charles-Jones
18 -0F4 SALMON RUN 8 D Nicholson 6-10-0 ..... R Dunwoody
19 -0FD DUART 28 (S) J Spearing 7-10-0 ..... NON-RUNNER
21 00P/ RAWDY 750 (S) J Spearing 9-10-0 .... P Warner
22 4004 JONIX 11 J Gifford 6-10-0 .... T Pinfield (7)
25 30F- WORDEL 311 Mrs R Murdoch 9-10-0 .... M Pitman
26 000U HALLO MATEY 8 (B) G Hubbard 5-10-0 .. R Supple (7)
28 30-F NIGHT ATTACK 4 (B) J Elliott 11-10-0 ..... Mrs C Elliott
29 000/ LAST ENEMY 865 R Curtis 7-10-0 .... R Goldstein

9-4 Salmon Run, 3-1 Jonix, 4-1 Farmlea Boy, 5-1 Hot Handed, Monsoon, 7-1 Half Brother, 10-1 others.

1.30 ST IVO NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £1,068: 2m 4f) (14)

2 U0-1 ENVOPAK TOKEN 23 (G) J Gifford 6-11-7 T Pinfield (7)
3 144 IRON GRAY 32 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-7 ... R Dunwoody
4 0021 NICK THE BRIEF 14 (S) T Casey 5-11-7 .... —
5 6P1 SADDLERS NIGHT 23 (G) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-7 .... G McCourt
7 -001 ROSIE CONE 26 (B,CD,S) Mrs P Sly 5-11-2 . M Bastard
9 BLUE MARBLE G Hubbard 6-11-0 .... R Supple (7)
16 0 JACKDAW 23 R Hollinshead 7-11-0 .... J Duggan
19 PEPENON G Balding 5-11-0 .... R Guest (4)
23 40 THE DOORMAKER 49 T Forster 5-11-0 .... L Harvey
24 0-00 THE GUGNUNC 30 A J Wilson 5-11-0 .... —
26 P008 LITTLE SERENITY 4 (G) D Gandolfo 6-10-9 .... —
27 P8P- MARCH MEMORIES 265 Mrs B Waring 7-10-9 J Robson
29 0P MR JERSEY 12 T Bolgan 5-10-9 .... C Llewellyn (4)
32 484- TUNKIN 215 (F) J Scallan 6-10-9 .... M Furlong

3-1 Saddlers Night, 7-2 Rosie Cone, 5-1 Nick The Brief, 6-1 Envopak Token, Iron Gray, 10-1 Jackdaw, 14-1 others.

2.0 CHATTERIS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,292: 3m) (9)

2 0P-0 POLAR SUNSET 45 (D,F,G,S) T Forster 9-12-0 .... Miss G Armytage
3 -400 ROADSTER 29 (D,S) C Nash 11-12-0 .... M Bosley
4 -039 BRASS CHANGE 26 (G,S) P J Jones 9-11-13 M Kinane
7 -001 ON THE TWIST 33 (D,G) G Hubbard 5-11-2 R Supple (7)
11 /314 TROOP THE COLOUR 32 (CD,BF,G) D Nicholson 7-10-12 R Dunwoody
12 12-1 MOSOF 4 (C,G,S) J Gifford 6-10-12 .... T Pinfield (7)
15 3-30 GIOLLA WAY 30 (F,G) D Gandolfo 9-10-7 C Llewellyn (4)
17 P0F4 CAPTAIN LOWE 8 (F) P Howling 7-10-3 .... R Crank
19 300P FLEMINGTON 37 (F) W Perrin 8-10-0 .... M Bowlby

3-1 On The Twist, 4-1 Mosof, 5-1 Roadster, Troop The Colour, 6-1 Giolla Way, 12-1 Brass Change, 16-1 others.

2.30 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (£1,722: 2m 200yd) (8)

1 1UF-10 LEFRAK CITY 35 (G,S) T Forster 10-11-10 .... C Llewellyn (4)
2 3222 KEVINSFORT 21 (V,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-11-3 —
4 2-22 PUKKA MAJOR 11 (C,F,S) O Sherwood 6-10-10 .... Mr T Thomson Jones
6 2-44 PAN ARCTIC 7 (C,G,S) T Bill 8-10-7 .... —
8 03-1 KAMIR 30 (C,F,G,S) K Morgan 7-10-6 .... —
11 2134 AUNTIE DOT 26 (F,G,S) J Webber 8-10-0 ... G Mernagh
13 4421 VAGUELY ARTISTIC 8 (B,CD,F,S) G Hubbard 5-10-0 .... R Supple (7)
14 P24- PALATINATE 381 (F) G Hartigan 9-10-0 .... C Mann

2-1 Kevinsfort, 5-2 Pukka Major, 7-2 Lefrak City, 5-1 Vaguely Artistic, 6-1 Auntie Dot, 12-1 others.

3.0 EBF OUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (£999: 2m 100yd) (7)

1 -400 THE A TRAIN 25 (S) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-10 ... M Pitman
2 -301 JIMSTER 36 (S) C Nash 5-10-9 .... M Bosley
3 /00- GARDENERS CHOICE 308 (F) D Browning 7-10-6 .... J Akehurst
4 9-03 RAPPAHANNOCK 42 P W Harris 5-10-4 C Llewellyn (4)
5 00-1 HIGHLAND CLIPPER 73 (D,S) M Francis 6-10-2 .... R Dunwoody
6 -000 CUDDY DALE 25 (B) G Hubbard 4-10-1 .... R Supple (7)
8 0024 DEBBIES PRINCE 23 C Bravery 6-10-0 .... L Harvey

5-2 Jimster, 3-1 Highland Clipper, 4-1 Rappahannock, The A Train, 6-1 Debbies Prince, 10-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: T Bill, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 7 from 23, 30.4%; G Balding, 9 from 38, 23.7%; O Sherwood, 7 from 33, 21.2%; J Gifford, 15 from 78, 19.2%; D Nicholson, 4 from 22, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: R Guest, 4 winners from 17 rides, 23.5% (only qualifier).

Trainers' preferences

The following is a list of trainers' preferences for horses doubly engaged today. KEMPTON: 12.45 Brandon Pier, Coincidental; 1.15 Majestic Buck; 1.45 Baton Match, Arbitrage; 2.20 Forgive'N Forget; 3.20 Longghurst. WETHERBY: 1.30 Joint Sovereignty, Barryphilips Disco, Pan Arctic; 2.30 Lacidar, Christmas Holly; 3.0 Yahoo; 3.35 Honest Toil. WINCANTON: 1.30 Danny's Luck, Redgrave Devil, Manchesterskytrain, La Belle Rose; 2.0 Cradle Of Jazz; 3.0 Military Band, Coleman Abbey; 3.30 Hope Cove. SEDGEFIELD: 1.15 James My Boy; 2.15 Trafalgar Blue; 3.15 John Corbet, Anrika. WOLVERHAMPTON: 2.0 Mister Feathers; 2.30 Premon's Last; 3.0 Ramore, Little Serenity. NEWTON ABBOT: 1.45 Tarum, Faidros; 2.15 Lord Murphy, En Gounasi Theon, Mom's Girl; 2.45 Spider's Well, Easter Carnival, Giddycan; 3.15 Waterside Lodge, Cape Manton, Noble Eyre. MARKET RASEN: 12.45 D'Or's Gem, Spartan City; 1.45 Orbital Manoeuvers; 2.15 Killary Bay; 2.45 Kevinsfort, Kamir; 3.15 Park Run. HUNTINGDON: 1.0 Farmlea Boy; 1.30 Iron Gray; 2.0 Troop The Colour.

P2 PAMPERING 28 (Mrs J Brockbank) J Brockbank
PF TWICE LOVED 32 (G Rock) Mrs C Clark 6-11-1
BETTING: 4-6 City Entertainer, 6-1 Nautical Joke, 7-1 Hassle Money, 10-1 Calira, Green Gorse, 14-1 Pampering, 50-1 Twice Loved.
1986: MR FRISK 7-11-6 A Jones (7-4 fav) K Bailey 5 ran
G Richards
M W Easterby
W A Stephenson

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WOLVERHAMPTON

Selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Caffieri. 1.30 Bright Intervals. 2.0 Juvenile Prince. 2.30 Gerami. 3.0 Pearly King. 3.30 The Mississippian.

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles)

1.0 NETHERTON FOUR-YEAR-OLD HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,415: 2m) (15 runners)

2 11-F TINAS LAD 19 (D,F,G) J Edwards 12-2 D Tegg (7)
3 -330 FINGEST 49 (B,CD,G,S) Miss A King 11-7 A Webb
7 2200 WINDBOUND LASS 25 (CD,F) R Holder 11-3 R Stronge
8 -022 LLANARMON 14 (BF) N Henderson 11-2 S Smith Eccles
10 6311 CAFFIERI 7 (B,D,S) T Casey 11-1 (6ex) P Harley (7)
13 01 HONEST TOIL 39 (D,S) R Whitaker 10-10 —
14 -330 DENBERDAR 43 R Hollinshead 10-7 —
17 -000 MYSTERY CLOCK 14 (B,S) P Bailey 10-3 P Warner
18 0-09 MISTS OF TIME 40 (D,F) C Vernon Miller 10-3 —
20 4-00 STORMGUARD 36 W Clay 10-0 Diane Clay (7)
21 0000 RED BILLY 44 (D,F) Miss P Hall 10-0 NON-RUNNER
23 0P02 GARDA'S GOLD 26 R Dickin 10-0 Martin Jones (7)
24 23-0 DEAR BOB 40 (B,CD,S) W Price 10-0 S Davies (7)
25 200 GRAYROSE DOUBLE 24 E Owen jnr 10-0 D J Burchell (7)
27 000- OCEAN LAD 319 J Perrett 10-0 D Mastow (7)

3-1 Caffieri, 7-2 Llanarmon, 5-1 Honest Toil, 6-1 Tina's Lad, 8-1 Windbound Lass, 12-1 Denberdar, 14-1 others.

1.30 DEEPFIELDS NOVICES CHASE (£1,875: 2m) (14)

1 -021 BRIGHT INTERVALS 12 (D,G) F Winter 5-11-4 B de Haan
5 0-12 QUICKSTEP 11 (BF,S) M Pipe 6-11-4 S Smith Eccles
10 F0/P DETAILS GALORE 14 (F) D L Williams 6-10-12 J D Doyle
12 0/02 DIE IN THE SKY 8 S Norton 6-10-12 NON-RUNNER
16 P/00 KEEP FIGHTING 7 M Scudamore 5-10-12 A Sharpe
17 4003 LE SOIR 32 (F) R Francis 5-10-12 C Cowley
18 4P0- LUCKSIN 281 P Burgoyne 5-10-12 —
27 08 SPEARHEAD WARRIOR 4 K White 5-10-12 NON-RUNNER
29 -4P2 THE BUCKWHEAT 32 C Jackson 6-10-12 A O'Hagan
30 020F VISUAL IDENTITY 4 Miss A King 5-10-12 —
32 4000 ANNIE RA 7 (S) B Preece 5-10-7 Mr R Bevan (7)
33 -P03 HUMBERSIDE LADY 28 (G,S) J Cosgrove 6-10-7 K Ryan (4)
36 0020 SCALE MODEL 4 J Roper 5-10-7 Mr T Jackson
37 201- SPECIAL VENTURE 224 (F) O O'Neill 6-10-7 A Webb

4-5 Quickstep, 6-4 Bright Intervals, 12-1 Humberside Lady, 16-1 Special Venture, 25-1 others.

2.0 HARRY BROWN CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £3,954: 2m 4f) (11)

1 4-10 JOINT SOVEREIGNTY 35 (D,BF,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-12-4 —
2 1220 BALUCHI 7 (F,G,S) B Preece 6-11-13 Mr R Bevan (7)
4 33-P ALDRO 7 (G,S) W Clay 11-11-1 Diane Clay (7)
8 103P ACE OF SPIES 38 (V,F,S) Mrs G Jones 6-10-9 —
10 -021 DUNSTALL 19 (CD,F,G,S) B Morgan 10-10-7 (6ex) R Stronge
11 1102 JUVENILE PRINCE 86 (B,D,F,G,S) M Oliver 9-10-4 E Buckley
12 0200 MISTER FEATHERS 26 (B,C,F,G) J King 6-10-0 S McNeill
14 4F0- LARRY-O 250 (D,S) F Winter 7-10-0 B de Haan
16 2133 WOODLAND VIEW 51 (D,F,S) P J Jones 8-10-0 NON-RUNNER
17 13F- INCANDESCE 250 (F,S) J Edwards 8-10-0 D Tegg (7)
18 -101 CRADLE OF JAZZ 7 (D,F,G,S) J Old 7-10-0 —

9-4 Juvenile Prince, 7-2 Dunstall, 4-1 Baluchi, 6-1 Ace Of Spies, 8-1 Mister Feathers, Incandesce, 12-1 others.

2.30 OLDBURY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,246: 3m 1f) (11)

2 -02F WOLLOW WILL 7 (F,G,S) F Winter 8-11-10 B de Haan
5 1-01 GERAMI 4 (C,F,G) J Edwards 7-11-13 (5ex) W Knox
6 20-1 BACKLOG 40 (CD,G,S) J Dalton 9-11-4 A Webb
7 2P-1 IVOR ANTHONY 29 (B,S) I Balding 6-11-0 S Smith Eccles
8 0004 FLAREY SARK 14 (S) J King 8-10-12 —
11 0UF0 STRATHLINE 4 (D,F) M Oliver 7-10-8 E Buckley (4)
13 2-40 GOLDEN REDEEMER 30 (F,S) R Francis 9-10-6 C Cowley
14 3-PP PREMON'S LAST 28 (S) J Old 11-10-4 —
15 0B10 IL CASTAGNO 7 (G,S) D L Williams 7-10-3 C Mann
17 PPP/ SALLISSES 29 (F) R Shail 8-10-0 Miss A Langton (7)
21 3403 GALTRIM 14 (F,S) T Bill 8-10-0 J O'Hanlon (7)

5-2 Ivor Anthony, 3-1 Gerami, 5-1 Backlog, 6-1 Wollow Will, 7-1 Flarey Sark, 12-1 Golden Redeemer, 16-1 others.

3.0 WREKIN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£943: 2m 4f) (17)

6 3143 FLEURCONE 4 (S) K White 5-11-10 NON-RUNNER
9 0030 WELSH BLUEBELL 22 G Roe 5-11-8 P McDermott (7)
10 144 IRON GRAY 32 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-6 —
11 0-22 SIRUNDY 24 (BF) W Price 6-11-5 S Davies (7)
12 1403 MARINER'S LAD 14 (S) P Bevan 5-11-4 —
15 3400 MARINER'S STAR 23 J Bosley 5-11-2 S Shilston
16 0040 CAROGROVE 19 J Bukovets 4-11-2 S Cusack (7)
17 0-00 TORS 23 B Morgan 6-11-2 D Shaw
20 30-0 MISS CANNIBAL 38 R Pugh 6-11-0 M Price (7)
24 /0-P RAMORE 24 C Jackson 5-10-13 R Hyett
26 034 AUGHAVOGUE 30 (BF) J Edwards 5-10-13 D Tegg (7)
27 P00B LITTLE SERENITY 4 (G) D Gandolfo 6-10-12 S Smith Eccles
28 0-01 PEARLY KING 24 (S) G Kindersley 4-10-12 C Mann
29 P-34 LONGRIVER LADY 30 R Holder 4-10-11 R Stronge
31 /344 PERSHING 22 D L Williams 6-10-9 J Doyle
33 0000 SPACE KATE 24 E Evans 6-10-7 P Warner
35 -300 ROCK PRINCE 57 E Owen jnr 5-10-6 D J Burchell (7)

4-1 Pearly King, 5-1 Sirundy, 6-1 Mariner's Lad, 7-1 Aughavogue, 8-1 Longriver Lady, 10-1 Welsh Bluebell,

3.30 WALSALL HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,423: 2m) (20)

1 0-FP BEL COURSE 52 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Rimell 5-12-2 A Sharpe
2 0040 BATON MATCH 7 (D,F,G,S) J Edwards 7-12-1 D Tegg (7)
4 -004 TRUE SPARTAN 12 (D,S) G Price 7-11-6 M Price (7)
6 /02- SIR CRUSTY 250 (D,F,G) R Holder 5-11-3 R Stronge
10 210- MOSSBERRY FAIR 250 (D,F,S) W Haigh 6-10-12 W Haynes (7)
11 200- SMITHY BEAR 252 R Dickin 5-10-11 Martin Jones (7)
12 01-0 VYNZ SUPREME 47 (D,F,G) Mrs N Sharpe 7-10-8 S Smith Eccles
13 3000 MONCLARE TROPHY 35 (D,F) P Bevan 8-10-6 —
14 0F0/ TIME-BEE 579 (CD,F,S) J P Smith 6-10-5 Mr A Marklew (7)
15 0-P0 THE MISSISSIPPIAN 7 (S) B McMahon 6-10-3 T Wall
16 -200 NINO VOLADOR 7 (D,S) W Clay 6-10-2 Diane Clay (7)
19 -000 LYSANDER 23 M Tate 5-10-1 R Hyett
20 0/F0 CELTIC BOB 4 (F,S) O O'Neill 7-10-0 A Webb
21 P01- SIR HUMPHREY 250 (D,F) I Campbell 7-10-0 R Campbell
23 -330 HIGH RIVER 25 B Morgan 5-10-0 D Shaw
24 300- TUDOR SQUIRE 281 (D,G) D C Tucker 10-10-0 Jessica Charles-Jones (7)
25 2232 VULGARIS 32 R Hollinshead 5-10-0 Miss S Baxter (7)
26 3U00 NEW HALEN 12 A James 6-10-0 —
27 3302 TIARUM 25 (D,G,S) A Chamberlain 5-10-0 —
28 0/ PICADILLY PRINCE 1376 A James 7-10-0 J Bryan

4-1 True Spartan, 5-1 Vulgaris, 6-1 Sir Crusty, 7-1 Mossberry Fair, 8-1 Vynz Supreme, 10-1 Lysander, 12-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: T Casey, 7 winners from 17 runners, 41.2%; J Edwards, 11 from 44, 25.0%; M Pipe, 8 from 38, 21.1%; Mrs M Rimell, 12 from 58, 20.7%; F Winter, 4 from 22, 18.2%; N Henderson, 5 from 28, 17.9%.

JOCKEYS: S Smith Eccles, 4 winners from 16 rides, 25.0%; B de Haan, 5 from 35, 14.3%; R Stronge, 4 from 40, 10.0%. (Only qualifiers).

NEWTON ABBOT

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Island King. 1.15 Cats Eyes. 1.45 London Contact. 2.15 Royal Hero. 2.45 Spider's Well. 3.15 Ever Hopeful.

Going: soft

12.45 SOUTH WEST JUVENILE HURDLE (3-Y-O: £3,350: 2m 150yd) (16 runners)

1 1121 SEA ISLAND 19 (G,S) M Pipe 11-6 Mr R Bellamy (7)
2 21 BIRWAZ 11 (S) B Stevens 11-1 S Moore
5 02U DECCAN PRINCE 19 C J Hill 10-10 —
9 00 ICARUS 11 D R Tucker 10-10 D Morris (4)
10 ISLAND KING G Balding 10-10 A Charlton (7)
14 0 PONDERED BID 14 I Wardle 10-10 M Williams
15 103 PRINCEABLE LADY 11 (S) N Gaselee 10-10 A Adams (7)
16 SKRAGGS PLUS TWO Mrs A Knight 10-10 George Knight
18 XEROMEDE N Kernick 10-10 M Yeoman
19 00 BELLE OF STARS 19 D R Tucker 10-5 Lorna Vincent
21 3008 JOSIE SMITH 11 R Holder 10-5 P Murphy
22 332 QUEEN MATILDA 11 D Jermy 10-5 G Davies
23 223 SETTER COUNTRY 21 (BF) R Hodges 10-5 S Earle
24 8 STAR OF KUWAIT 25 M Pipe 10-5 R Millman
25 42 TABELLINA 29 (B) D Elsworth 10-5 R Arnott
26 2000 VALVERDE 11 W G Turner 10-5 Tracy Turner

2-1 Sea Island, 7-2 Tabellina, 5-1 Setter Country, 6-1 Island King, Queen Matilda, 8-1 Birwaz, Princeable Lady, 14-1 others.

1.15 MID DEVON NOVICES CHASE (£3,218: 2m 5f) (14)

1 04-1 CATS EYES 57 (B,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-4 M Perrett
4 -3BF AISLING GEAL 8 (G) D Gandolfo 7-11-0 M Williams
6 0-60 BILBROOK 8 P Hobbs 5-11-0 M Richards
11 00/0 DERROWN 30 M Hill 7-11-0 R Dennis
12 00F- DREAMCOAT 276 (S) K Bishop 6-11-0 S Earle
17 -F2F GILES CROSS 31 D Chesney 8-11-0 —
22 PF-0 IMPOUND 18 J Roberts 8-11-0 H Jenkins
23 F0-0 JELLY-DEAL 5 W G M Turner 5-11-0 D Morris
25 F0P0 JOE FLASH 44 (B) F Gorman 8-11-0 D Wonnacott
26 1- JUST THIS ONCE 421 (G) D Barons 6-11-0 P Nicholls
32 02-0 OUTSIDE EDGE 35 (S) D Murray-Smith 6-11-0 J Frost
38 -PFP SNOWY PEARL 32 (S) J Roberts 6-11-0 —
44 /0FP CHASE THE CLOUDS 30 W R Williams 6-10-9 A Jones
45 P/F0 HANDYMOUSE 42 (S) P J Hobbs 7-10-9 B Wright

4-5 Cats Eyes, 4-1 Just This Once, 8-1 Giles Cross, 10-1 Aisling Geal, Outside Edge, 16-1 others.

1.45 CHRISTMAS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£812: 2m 150yd) (18)

1 -210 PHAROAH'S TREASURE 58 (B,F) G Ham 6-11-10 S Mackey (7)
4 00P- AESCULAPIUS 403 (F,S) R Griffiths 6-10-11 M Williams
5 12P- LONDON CONTACT 250 (F) W R Williams 4-10-11 A Jones
6 3302 TIARUM 25 (G,S) A Chamberlain 5-10-11 P Nicholls
7 0-00 BUSH RADIO 25 (BF) R Frost 6-10-10 J Frost
8 00-0 DISTRESS CALL 30 S Cole 6-10-10 —
9 0-P0 BASSIM 25 (V) D R Tucker 5-10-9 Lorna Vincent
10 3400 CANTORIAL 12 (B) C Popham 6-10-8 V Kennedy (7)
11 00/F QUALITY CHORISTER 22 Wm Price 6-10-8 W Knox
12 4030 CHATTERSPARK 24 (B,S) R Hodges 4-10-7 S Earle
13 P-P0 FAIDROS 30 (B) J Old 6-10-7 P Richards
14 PP/0 DASSELLS 25 J Forte 6-10-6 Mr A Forte (7)
15 0003 POOELLA 25 (S) W G Turner 5-10-6 Tracy Turner
16 0P-P HERNE MISS MADAM 44 C Luxton 4-10-6 R Millman
17 F000 CONJOB 25 Mrs J Wonnacott 4-10-6 D Wonnacott
19 4P-0 PEADAR'S STROKE 11 G Gracey 5-10-6 D Morris (4)
20 0U0- OPTIMOSA 233 J Forte 5-10-6 Miss K Ellis (7)
21 P0/P TYNAN 46 D C Turner 5-10-6 Miss M Turner (7)

3-1 London Contact, 9-2 Pharoah's Treasure, 5-1 Bush Radio, Chatterspark, Tiarum, 8-1 Aesculapius, 10-1 others.

2.15 THURLESTONE HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,784: 2m 5f 110yd) (18)

2 013- SHOUTITOUT 283 (CD,G,S) J Cann 10-11-10 George Knight
3 P-2F MILITARY BAND 47 (G,S) Mrs N Sharpe 9-11-9 —
4 004B ARBITRAGE 38 (S) B Forsey 6-11-5 —
5 3-00 LORD MURPHY 21 (S) R Holder 5-11-5 P Murphy
6 1P-0 GREAT GANDER 42 (S) J Spearing 4-11-5 Lorna Vincent
7 0-F0 TACHADOR 19 (S) R Hodges 6-11-4 S Earle
8 2-00 EN GOUNASI THEON 21 (S) G Doidge 6-11-3 R Arnott
9 01-0 ROYAL HERO 21 (S) P Bowden 6-11-3 B Wright
10 0F2B HILL-STREET-BLUES 21 (C,F,S) J Fox 9-11-2 S Moore
12 -002 HANDY LANE 25 (F,S) C Popham 6-10-9 V Kennedy (7)
13 4100 CLUGA GURM 38 (G) A Barrow 6-10-8 M Williams
15 0-31 LE LEVADOR 24 (S) D Wintle 8-10-4 A Carroll
17 PB0- RODNERS 35 (F) W G M Turner 7-10-0 Tracy Turner
18 00-2 MEZIARA 236 (V,S) D Tucker 6-10-0 D Morris (4)
19 P0-0 AUNT ETTY 25 (G,S) M Pipe 4-10-0 M Perrett
20 4000 CUTTING EDGE 19 (S) B Isaac 7-10-0 R Millman
22 30F0 MUM'S GIRL 23 B Smart 7-10-0 R Boucher (7)
24 RPP- AUCTION ROYALE 220 A James 8-10-0 —

11-4 Le Levador, 5-1 Handy Lane, 11-2 Hill-Street-Blues, 6-1 Great Gander, Meziara, 8-1 Aunt Etty, 10-1 others.

2.45 LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,126: 3m 2f 100yd) (12)

1 2142 YAHOO 21 (F,S) J Edwards 6-11-10 —
2 2-11 SPIDER'S WELL 24 (F,G,S) D Barons 11-10-9 P Nicholls
3 -234 CANIO 14 (F,G,S) R Hodges 10-10-7 S Earle
5 12/0 ARDESEE 35 (G,S) D Wintle 7-10-2 A Carroll
6 0042 EASTER CARNIVAL 25 (CD,F,G,S) K Bishop 11-10-1 P Richards
8 24P1 RAUSAL 7 (S) T Bailey 8-10-0 (4ex) Mr R Bellamy (7)
9 14-4 QUINNER 25 (CD,S) P J West 11-10-0 R Millman
12 10-0 PRINCESS ISIS 38 (F,S) B Forsey 9-10-0 M Richards
13 2204 MAGGIE DEE 51 (CD,F) R Frost 10-10-0 J Frost
14 0-02 MEARLIN 31 (G,S) J Old 8-10-0 —
15 PFP- GIDDYCAN 311 (G,S) M Pipe 11-10-0 M Perrett
16 0FF- ROWDEN RULER 604 D Tucker 8-10-0 D Morris (4)

2-1 Spider's Well, 9-2 Canio, 5-1 Rausal, 13-2 Easter Carnival, 8-1 Maggie Dee, Quinner, 10-1 Mearlin, 12-1 others.

3.15 HIGHER HUMBER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,208: 2m 150yd) (16)

2 F81F DANNY'S LUCK 22 (G) D Barons 5-11-12 —
5 -0P3 RECTORY BOY 24 W Price 4-11-7 W Knox
6 3400 HOPE COVE 22 (F,S) D Barons 5-11-7 —
7 2123 REDGRAVE DEVIL 12 (S) K Bishop 5-11-5 S Earle
8 21 WATERSIDE LODGE 28 (S) M Fetherston-Godley 4-11-4 Mr M Armytage (4)
10 4F3 EVER HOPEFUL 30 D Barons 5-11-2 P Nicholls
11 P240 DUNARUNNA 21 B Forsey 6-11-1 M Richards
12 P-01 GALLOIS BOSQUET 25 (CD,S) C Popham 6-11-1 V Kennedy (7)
13 00-B CAPE MANTON 8 R Holder 6-11-1 P Murphy
15 0/00 BERGEN BABY 38 D Barons 6-10-13 J Hurst
16 0P00 FLEXIBLE FRIEND 19 J Fox 7-10-12 S Moore
18 4000 THATS NICE 25 (B,CD,F) T Keenor 4-10-9 R Boucher (7)
19 -0BF FLEET BAY 32 T Hallett 7-10-9 D Morris (4)
20 2130 NOBLE EYRE 14 (S) D Gandolfo 6-10-9 M Williams
21 33/0 LA MARGARITE 28 D Wintle 7-10-7 A Carroll
22 -PP0 BEST INTENT 72 T Bailey 10-10-7 Mr R Bellamy (7)

2-1 Waterside Lodge, 5-2 Noble Eyre, 5-1 Ever Hopeful, 6-1 Gallois Bosquet, 10-1 Dunarunna, 12-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: D Elsworth, 16 winners from 53 runners, 30.2%; B Isaac, 5 from 17, 29.4%; J Fox, 5 from 20, 25.0%; M Pipe, 50 from 200, 25.0%; R Holder, 10 from 41, 24.4%; J Spearing, 4 from 19, 21.1%.

JOCKEYS: M Williams, 9 winners from 40 rides, 22.5%; S Moore, 4 from 23, 17.4%. (Only qualifiers).

MARKET RASEN

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Infra Red Boy. 1.15 Mister Hartigan. 1.45 Spritebrand. 2.15 Danish Flight. 2.45 Terryash. 3.15 Quintana.

Going: soft

12.45 RISBY SELLING HURDLE (£809: 2m) (24 runners)

2 -2UP D'OR'S GEM 19 P Blockley 4-11-5 S J O'Neill
3 00 REGENCY SQUARE 12 D Thom 4-11-5 —
5 00-3 TOWER WATCH 39 H Fleming 4-11-5 —
6 PF CONNAUGHT BROADS 12 M Charles 4-11-0 K Ryan
8 3- PLATINUM STAR 490 T Kersey 4-11-0 Susan Kersey (7)
9 0 ROCHES ROOST 88 R O'Leary 4-11-0 —
10 AUSTHORPE SUNSET D Chapman 3-10-7 G Lyons (7)
11 000 BLACK HELMET 66 K Stone 3-10-7 J J Quinn
13 U GAELIC LOVER 35 C Tinkler 3-10-7 N Doughty
14 03P2 INFRA RED BOY 21 K Morgan 3-10-7 M Brennan
15 04 INGLISTON 35 S Muldoon 3-10-7 D Dutton
16 0P0 LOOSE RUCK 28 J Pearce 3-10-7 —
18 0000 NIGHT VISITOR 14 J Parkes 3-10-7 —
19 U0P RUN TO WORK 26 T Kersey 3-10-7 —
21 30F0 WILL RAINE 25 I Campbell 3-10-7 R Campbell
22 CIRCLE OF FIRE B McMath 3-10-2 —
23 EMERKALA Miss G Rees 3-10-2 W Worthington
24 F FINAL RUSH 21 K Wingrove 3-10-2 —
27 44 MAYSPARK 14 (BF) W Haigh 3-10-2 M Pepper
28 0PP0 MISS LALIE 25 D Wellcome 3-10-2 R Balfour
29 F PEERGLOW 26 C Williams 3-10-2 —
30 F SAPPHARINO 21 R Stubbs 3-10-2 S Keightley
31 000 SILLY JILL 14 M Chapman 3-10-2 S Mitchell (7)
32 UP SPARTAN CITY 26 Mrs A Ratcliff 3-10-2 —

5-1 Infra Red Boy, 6-1 Will Raine, Night Visitor, 8-1 Tower Watch, Mayspark, 10-1 Black Helmet, 12-1 others.

1.15 BRUCE CARR MEMORIAL CHASE (£2,489: 3m) (12)

1 31U1 RINUS 23 (F,S) G Richards 6-11-10 N Doughty
4 2-10 MATRIC 15 (S) J Blundell 6-11-4 D Dutton
6 0214 EDWARDS VISION 21 (BF,S) Mrs M Dickinson 6-11-3 M Brennan
7 0-22 MISTER HARTIGAN 7 (S) J Edwards 7-11-3 Mr M Richards (4)
9 0 DURPLEY CASTLE 14 P Liddle 6-11-0 M Pepper
13 B/P0 SEVERN SOLITAIRE 21 K Wingrove 8-11-0 —
14 PF TWICE LOVED 32 Mrs C Clark 8-11-0 —
15 P420 VULNERABLE 14 M Chapman 6-11-0 S Mitchell (7)
16 03P BORROWDALE 19 T Gill 5-10-13 C Kellett
17 040F BOTANY BLADE 14 M Avison 5-10-13 —
18 -03P WOLVER DAN 19 H Leigh 5-10-13 G Lyons (7)
21 0-04 SAXON SLAVE 23 J Jefferson 6-10-9 M Hill

7-4 Mister Hartigan, 5-2 Rinus, 4-1 Edwards Vision, 6-1 Matric, 12-1 Saxon Slave, 16-1 Borrowdale, 20-1 others.

1.45 KILVINGTON LONG DISTANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,124: 2m 4f) (17)

1 0-P4 ORBITAL MANOEUVERS 15 (F,G,S) P Blockley 6-12-0 W Smith (7)
4 0240 SPRITEBRAND 35 (F,G) M H Easterby 7-10-13 D Dutton
5 0-00 JAMES MY BOY 7 (D,S) M Dickinson 7-10-12 —
6 013/ RIGTON SALLY 749 (C,F,G) H Wharton 7-10-11 B Walsh (4)
7 -320 NEW FARMER 14 (S) O Brennan 5-10-9 M Brennan
11 414- NIKOOLA EVE 331 (D,S) J Glover 5-10-6 S Harris (7)
12 2000 BOREHAM DOWN 39 (C,G,S) N Bycroft 8-10-6 —
13 32F2 ICEN 28 (G,S) H Fleming 9-10-6 —
14 600P MR CARACTACUS 25 (D,F) G Gracey 6-10-6 —
15 3303 PEACE TERMS 3 (B,S) G Richards 5-10-4 N Doughty
16 -000 CELTIC CRACKER 36 (C,G,S) R Hartop 9-10-4 S J O'Neill
17 2400 POONA EXPRESS 23 (C,S) J Parkes 6-10-0 —
19 0040 KASU 8 (F,G) J Harris 4-10-0 J A Harris
21 81/0 RUCKLEY 21 (CD,F) W Haigh 7-10-0 M Pepper
22 4030 EASTERN PLAYER 7 (F,G) M Chapman 4-10-0 S Mitchell (7)
27 0410 SUSSEX OVERSEAS 15 (D,S) F Jackson 5-10-0 G Lyons (7)
30 PPP/ CHUCKLING LAD 945 (CD,F,G) S G Smith 12-10-0 A J Dalton (7)

6-4 Nikoola Eve, 7-2 Spritebrand, 9-2 Peace Terms.

2.15 RACING POST NOVICES CHASE (£1,589: 2m) (12)

2 4-F0 ATKINSONS 35 (F,S) G Richards 6-11-4 N Doughty
3 23/F DANISH FLIGHT 45 (F,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-4 J J Quinn
4 F40F DARK EMPEROR 5 P Liddle 6-11-4 M Pepper
5 4233 INDIAN 22 (B,BF) J Glover 7-11-4 S Johnson
6 3F0F KILLARY BAY 8 (F,G) K Stone 5-11-4 J D Davies (4)
7 4140 MOUNTAINEER 35 (F,G,S) J Leigh 8-11-4 G Lyons (7)
8 PF PIGEON ISLAND 19 P Blockley 5-11-4 Mr J Railton (7)
10 420- RODNEY BAY 301 J Blundell 5-11-4 D Dutton
12 00/4 SILVER LEO 8 (G) J Harris 9-11-4 J A Harris
17 400/ DEEP GOLD 1485 (G) R Spicer 9-10-13 R Campbell
18 1/00 JUDY'S DOWRY 12 (G,S) W Wharton 6-10-13 S J O'Neill
19 003- REMAINDER WYN 364 (S) K Morgan 6-10-13 —

5-2 Danish Flight, 3-1 Atkinsons, 7-2 Indian, 6-1 Mountaineer, 10-1 Rodney Bay, 16-1 Killary Bay, 20-1 others.

2.45 KERNEL HANDICAP CHASE (£1,835: 2m) (10)

1 3222 KEVINSFORT 21 (V,CD,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-11-10 J J Quinn
5 03-1 KAMIR 30 (F,G,S) K Morgan 7-10-13 M Brennan
6 1121 WISE CRACKER 5 (CD,F,G,S) P Blockley 6-11-3 (5ex) N Doughty
7 F2P2 TRAFALGAR BLUE 15 (BF,G,S) R Scholey 7-10-11 —
8 2413 VALENTINOS JOY 15 (CD,F,G,S) G Oldroyd 8-10-6 M Pepper
9 2P13 TERRYASH 14 (CD,G,S) M Chapman 8-10-5 S J O'Neill
10 P002 DOVER 28 (F,G,S) H Fleming 7-10-5 —
13 F01P BERMUDA'S GLEN 7 (BF,F,S) J Blundell 9-10-5 —
15 02-P SUDBROOKE PARK 19 (S) J Leigh 9-10-5 G Lyons (7)
16 0-41 MILITARY CROWN 28 (F,S) M Avison 10-10-5 D Dutton

5-2 Wise Cracker, 3-1 Terryash, 7-2 Kevinsfort, 5-1 Kamir, 8-1 Bermuda's Glen, Valentinos Joy, 12-1 others.

3.15 ACCURATE NOVICES HURDLE (£1,085: 2m) (16)

2 F BAY BAZAAR 70 J Parkes 5-10-10 —
3 F/00 BENNY'S EYES 8 J Harris 5-10-10 J A Harris
4 4/0- BOUTZDAROFF 383 Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-10-10 J J Quinn
7 COINCIDENTAL J Edwards 5-10-10 —
8 /602 CONNAUGHT CARD 23 M Ellerby 5-10-10 —
11 0000 KESKIDEE 5 P Liddle 6-10-10 M Pepper
12 /000 MILDALE 14 A Potts 5-10-10 —
13 630P NO CREDIBILITY 28 B Richmond 5-10-10 P Corrigan
14 0-13 PARK RUN 15 (G,S) Mrs V Aconley 6-10-10 N Doughty
16 0-40 QUINTANA 19 (S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-10-10 —
18 00 STEGSMAN 7 J Blundell 5-10-10 —
19 0-00 TERIE TOMO 22 P Blockley 5-10-10 W Smith (7)
21 00- WELL RIGGED 365 M Avison 6-10-10 D Dutton
22 0 CELTIC ASCESS 14 O Brennan 6-10-5 M Brennan
23 REBECCA'S PET G Kelly 5-10-5 —
24 2440 SPANDULAY 14 W Wharton 6-10-5 S J O'Neill

7-4 Park Run, 7-2 Boutzdaroff, 6-1 Connaught Card, 8-1 Well Rigged, 10-1 Quintana, 12-1 Spandulay, 14-1 others.

Course specialists

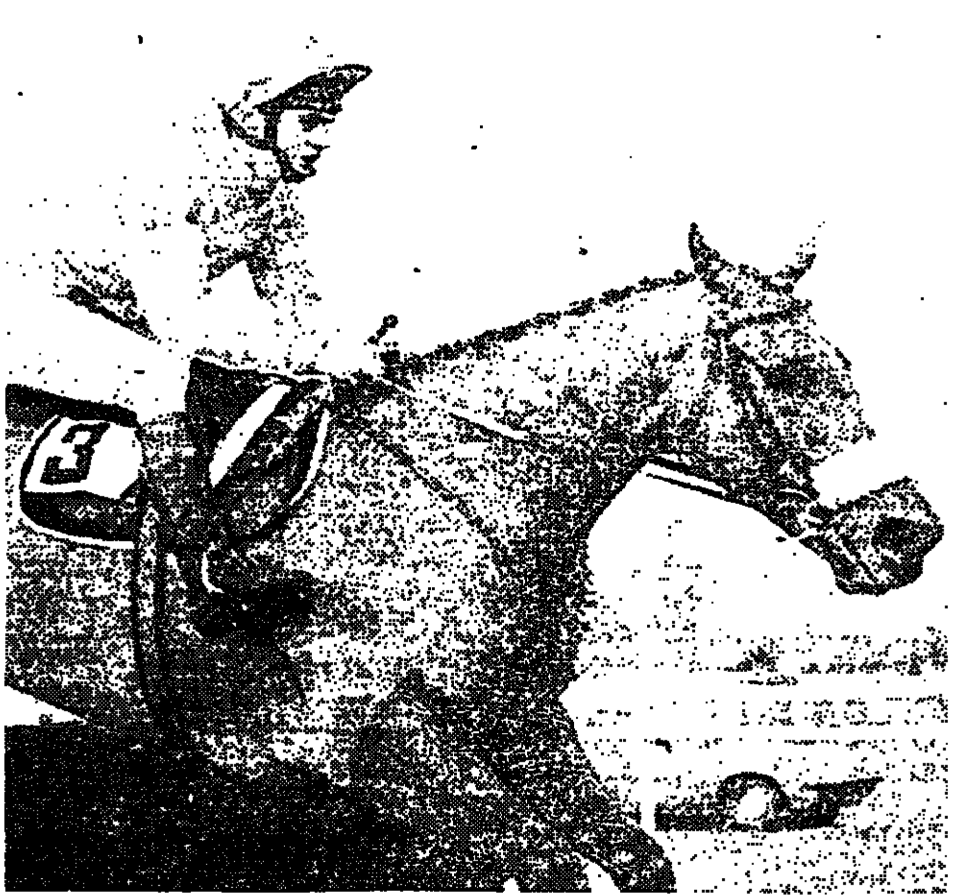
TRAINERS: Mrs M Dickinson, 16 winners from 32 runners, 50.0%, G Richards, 12 from 41 at 29.3%; M H Easterby, 16 from 62, 25.8%; J Jefferson, 5 from 21, 23.8%; J Glover, 4 from 21, 19.0%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 20 from 113, 17.7%.

JOCKEYS: N Doughty, 6 winners from 22 rides, 27.3%. M Pepper, 11 from 57, 19.3%: (Only qualifiers).

Dancing Brave update

Vets treating Dancing Brave believe he is suffering from avian tuberculosis. The diagnosis was made when the results of blood samples taken on December 17 became available.

Dancing Brave's condition is "satisfactory". The vets believe that the tuberculosis has probably caused Marie's Disease and have changed one of the antibiotics given daily so that both are active against the tuberculosis.



Forgive'N Forget and his regular rider Mark Dwyer attempt to topple the fancied Desert Orchid in this afternoon's King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park

Elsworth celebrates joys of Christmas present

By Michael Seely

"All my Christmas runners went five furlongs up the Bank Gallop this morning," said David Elsworth yesterday. "It's a beautiful day, the mist's still down in the valley but the sun's out on the tops."

As the bustling, energetic Elsworth sat down to his festive turkey and trimmings with a party of 11, including his three-year-old daughter, Jessica, his all-conquering Hampshire stable is trailing Martin Pipe's Somerset yard by just £1,287 in the race for this season's trainers' championship.

"It's all very exciting," he continued. "The horses' coats looked marvellous in the sunshine and I've got the feeling that we've just got to win something."

The champagne was flowing as Rodney Boult, the head lad, and the rest of the stable staff arrived for the traditional Christmas party. "We always have everyone in to celebrate the occasion. But Dessie won't notice anything different as he has something special every day."

Last December Desert Orchid treated the 20,000 crowd at Kempton to an exhilarating display of fencing as he romped home 15 lengths clear of Door Latch with Forgive'N Forget, the favourite, a well-beaten fourth.

On Thursday rumours were rife that all was not well with Richard Burridge's flying grey as he was prepared for a repeat performance. "They probably heard about his corns," the trainer explained. "We're aware of them and they've been a problem. Although we didn't know it beforehand, that was the reason why he jumped so badly in the Whitbread Gold Cup in April.

"But we've had a special large shoe made for him, which means that his weight is distributed over a wider area and he's absolutely fine."

Elsworth was quick to answer the charge that Simon Sherwood caught his rivals napping last Christmas and that Desert Orchid was allowed to steal the prize.

"They just went a good steady gallop and it was his jumping that got them all at it. Forgive'N Forget was soon struggling and making mistakes. And I'll tell you something, Forgive'N Forget's won 18 races and not one of them's been on a right-handed track. Perhaps Fitzgerald's got a blind spot there."

When this information was relayed to Fitzgerald at Malton, the combative Irishman was quick to defend his champion, the winner of the 1985 Cheltenham Gold Cup.

"Elsworth's right, but he's only run over a right-handed track three times in his life. Now I'll tell you something. Desert Orchid's never won a Gold Cup, but if I had him he'd soon learn *to jump left-handed round* Cheltenham."

Warming to his theme, the trainer outlined his battle plan: "Last year Forgive'N Forget was dropped out and his jumping suffered, but this time Mark Dwyer is going to jump off with the pace and settle in where the gallop dictates. With three front runners in Desert Orchid, Beau Ranger and Cybrandian, something's got to give somewhere."

Like Elsworth, Fitzgerald had his team out for some Christmas exercise, but Tickite Boo was missing. "He's banged his near fore and I don't think he'll be able to run. I'm sitting here trying to pluck up the courage to ring up his owner."

Ronnie Beggan, Tickite Boo's intended partner, will now ride Cybrandian for Peter Easterby.

The 49-year-old trainer's legendary rags-to-riches story has already been well documented. Born an orphan, he began his career as a 12-year-old apprentice peeling potatoes and doing other menial tasks for Alec Kilpatrick. After a stint as a comparatively unsuccessful jockey, he was assistant to Ricky Vallance when that trainer lost his licence in 1973. During his period in the wilderness Elsworth ran a stall in Wantage market.

Reflecting on his present prosperity he concluded: "Life's just like a big game. You've got to work hard and do your best, but you must never take yourself too seriously. Racing's just *like* show business, the only difference is that we've got to make our horses go faster than anyone else's. But its a marvellous business and I've got the best job in the world."

Webster set for rematch with Curley

Colin Webster, the bookmaker at the sharp end of Barney Curley's £400,000 betting coup, is prepared to take on the flamboyant Newmarket trainer again.

Webster, whose Leeds-based company set up the series of wagers which led to Curley showing a profit of over £250,000 after saddling 10 National Hunt winners before the end of the year, said: "I might take Barney's new bet if we can come to an agreement over the odds. He's asking for 2-1, but I think that's too generous."

Curley wants to back himself to score 10 more wins in the first three months of 1988, but Webster put the record straight over the lest pay-out.

"I only laid part of the bet," he said. "Barney had £5,000 with me at 2-1, and then, after he'd had just two winners, he came back asking for 5-2. I was happy to give him those odds to another £4,000. He's only taken £20,000 off me and must have had the rest with somebody else."

Curley saddled his tenth winner with Experimenting at Folkestone last Tuesday, but had to wait until the following day, when an appeal against his Doncaster winner Assultan was turned down, before the success of his bet was confirmed.

SEDGEFIELD

Selections

By Mandarin

12.15 Silken Turn. 12.45 Olletsoc. 1.15 Mirpur. 1.45 Prince Metternich. 2.15 Impany. 2.45 Donna Farina. 3.15 Hotplate.

Going: good to soft

12.15 BOXING DAY NOVICES CHASE (£924: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

2 4U BEAU DEREK 7 T Barron 7-11-7 G Harker
4 203P CONWAY GROVE 7 J Swiers 7-11-7 C Dennis (7)
5 U018 DANTES TREE 32 (S) R Robinson 8-11-7 T P White (7)
6 P0-P DEREK'S BAY 23 (G) J Redfern 10-11-7 G Martin
7 0/02 DIE IN THE SKY 8 S Norton 6-11-7 J R Quinn (7)
12 0-30 PADDY HAYTON 35 S Leadbetter 6-11-7 J Hansen
13 0PF0 PAUPERS SON 7 (B,S) R O'Leary 10-11-7 —
17 3F0F KILLARY BAY 8 (F,G) K Stone 5-11-6 —
21 2-U4 WEARDALE 39 (G) Denys Smith 5-11-6 P Niven
25 032- MAREJO 215 F Walton 6-11-2 Mr J Walton
28 P3F3 SILKEN TURN 24 (BF,S) P Charlton 7-11-2 K Cotter (7)

7-2 Die In The Sky, 4-1 Silken Turn, 9-2 Weardale, 5-1 Dantes Tree, 8-1 Conway Grove, 10-1 Marejo, 12-1 others.

12.45 HARDWICK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£745: 2m 4f) (15)

3 010- SCOTTISH GREEN 453 (C,F) R Peacock 9-11-10 P Miller (7)
5 -2UP D'OR'S GEM 19 P Blockley 4-11-6 —
7 02-8 EDOZIEN 29 M Dickinson 3-11-2 J R Quinn (7)
8 4100 DOMANUS 49 (B,C,F) V Thompson 6-11-2 Mr M Thompson (4)
11 P-30 DIME AND A DOLLAR 24 (CD,G) G Richards 4-10-10 J Hansen
12 P-60 MASTER VULGAN 5 Mrs G Reveley 8-10-10 S Selby (7)
13 0240 OLLETSOC 24 F Watson 9-10-10 A Merrigan (4)
14 P040 GEEBEETEEVEE 24 Mrs S Austin 6-10-9 D Wilkinson
15 -U00 BAVAL 71 (CD,G,S) D Yeoman 10-10-8 G Harker
16 /P0- EDWEET 252 (S) W Storey 6-10-8 Fiona Storey
17 0-P0 RUN FOR PORT 26 N Waggott 9-10-7 Miss T Waggott (7)
18 4-02 TOP TIER 112 J Mackie 4-10-7 P Niven
19 P00- VITINGO 219 (F,G,S) J Redfern 8-10-7 G Martin
20 00P3 CHESNUT AIR 24 M Ellerby 6-10-7 R Garritty (7)
22 3004 VALOROSO 19 (F,G) A Le Blond 7-10-7 Mr D Franks

11-4 Olletsoc, 4-1 Dime And A Dollar, 5-1 Top Tier, 7-1 Scottish Green, 10-1 Domanus, 12-1 Edozien, 14-1 others.

1.15 GUS CARTER HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,867: 2m 4f) (22)

1 -UF0 LACIDAR 7 (D,F,S) J Johnson 7-11-12 —
2 2-12 NORTON WARRIOR 8 (G,S) M H Easterby 4-11-7 R Marley (7)
3 0-00 JAMES MY BOY 7 (D,S) M Dickinson 7-11-3 J R Quinn (7)
4 -204 CHRISTMAS HOLLY 7 (S) Mrs G Reveley 6-11-2 —
7 2030 SUNBIA 28 (CD,G) D Lee 6-10-13 P Hegarty (7)
9 3209 G G MAGIC 15 (D,G) C J Bell 4-10-11 C Dennis (7)
10 F009 SMART IN BLACK 8 (D,F,S) G Richards 5-10-10 J Hansen
11 3004 DUKE OF DOLLIS 88 (CD,F,S) W Storey 8-10-8 Fiona Storey
12 2002 PLEDGDON GREEN 24 (S) V Thompson 7-10-8 Mr M Thompson (4)
15 P0P4 DON'T BE LATE 37 (S) R Peacock 5-10-4 P Miller (7)
16 0312 MIRPUR 7 (CD,BF,F,G,S) Mrs G Reveley 5-10-4 P Niven
17 B040 GOLDEN CROFT 23 (S) D McCain 4-10-3 —
18 0/30 MARTIAN BABY 8 (B,S) S Leadbetter 5-10-2 —
19 P4UF BETTY'S GIRL 7 (B) R O'Leary 7-10-0 —
20 0-00 ROVIGO 93 W A Stephenson 6-10-0 Mr A Costello (7)
21 -00P SYRINX 7 (D,S) S Payne 5-10-0 D Wilkinson
22 -000 PLAYING 26 (S) Mrs J Pringle 8-10-0 G Harker
23 0-30 RUSTIC TRACK 14 Denys Smith 7-10-0 —
24 00P0 BOW HANDY MAN 28 (B,S) J Redfern 5-10-0 G Martin
25 0000 GRANGE OF GLORY 21 J Hellens 6-10-0 —
26 00-0 NOT EASY 5 (D,G,S) W Page 7-10-0 J O'Gorman (7)
27 0000 CROFTON PARK 35 (V) J Dixon 6-10-0 K Doolan

4-1 Mirpur, 11-2 Norton Warrior, 7-1 Martian Baby, 8-1 Don't Be Late, 10-1 Pledgdon Green, Sunbia, 12-1 others.

1.45 BRADBURY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,180: 3m 600yd) (17)

1 12-4 MIGHTY MARK 24 (G) F Walton 8-12-3 Mr J Walton
5 20-6 LITTLE FRENCHMAN 39 (F,G,S) E Robson 14-11-4 T Reed
6 -U01 TULLAMARINE 40 (S) G Richards 10-11-3 J Hansen
7 1103 THE WILK 29 (F,G) W A Stephenson 8-11-2 A Merrigan (4)
9 040U KERSIL 7 (C,G,S) J Swiers 10-10-10 J R Quinn (7)
10 23U3 CLONROCHE GAZETTE 8 Miss M Bell 7-10-9 T P White (7)
11 4312 PRINCE METTERNICH 8 (CD,S) C J Bell 6-10-9 C Dennis (7)
12 -212 BURNDITCH BOY 26 (BF,S) Mrs G Reveley 8-10-6 P Niven
13 04-1 CANDY CONE 35 (CD,G) R Brewis 7-10-5 G Harker
14 13-3 BRIG O'BALGOWNIE 22 (S) I Park 11-10-5 —
15 00P- GALA PRINCE 238 (G) T Barron 10-10-5 D Wilkinson
16 3-FF MOSSMORRAN 24 (B,BF,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-10-4 R Marley (7)
17 -000 THE HOWLET 8 (F,G,S) K Oliver 8-10-3 —
18 4012 CLONROCHE STREAM 24 (CD,G,S) V Thompson 8-10-1 Mr M Thompson (4)
19 -F30 PURPLE BEAM 23 (CD,F,G) T Barnes 8-10-0 G Martin
20 0040 BEAU LYON 5 (V,CD,F,S) D Lamb 9-10-0 J O'Gorman (7)
21 2P04 SHINING BANN 51 (S) R Johnson 12-10-0 Mr P Johnson (7)

5-2 Tullamarine, 7-2 Prince Metternich, 9-2 Candy Cone, 11-2 The Wilk, 6-1 Burnditch Boy, 8-1 others.

2.15 RENT ROLL CUP (Handicap chase: £1,956: 2m) (9)

1 40P3 BARRYPHILIPS DISCO 21 (G,S) (D) R Whitaker 10-12-1 —
2 PF02 SLIEVE FELIM 5 (F,G,S) (CD,BF) W A Stephenson 7-12-0 A Merrigan (4)
4 0-40 PRICE OF PEACE 73 (F,G,S) (CD) C J Bell 9-10-13 C Dennis (7)
5 F2P2 TRAFALGAR BLUE 15 (G,S) (BF) R Scholey 7-10-8 P Niven
6 0302 IMPANY 7 (D,F,S) R Robinson 6-10-2 T P White (7)
7 3413 RICHARDS BAY 8 (D,S) J S Wilson 6-10-0 J Hansen
8 1322 ANOTHER FLAME 26 (D,F,G,S) W Storey 10-10-0 Fiona Storey
9 3-03 BORDER KNIGHT 26 (CD,F,G,S) J Haldane 12-10-0 R Marley (7)
10 P-P0 COEUR VALLIANT 24 (CD,G,S) V Thompson 9-10-0 Mr M Thompson (4)

9-4 Trafalgar Blue, 11-4 Impany, 5-1 Another Flame, 6-1 Richards Bay, 7-1 Slieve Felim, 8-1 Border Knight, 12-1 others.

2.45 BOXING DAY NOVICES CHASE (£922: 2m 4f) (10)

8 -013 DONNA FARINA 32 (BF,S) G Richards 6-11-7 J R Quinn (7)
10 P-00 MULATA 35 (S) D Moffatt 8-11-7 K Teelan
11 30-P NOBLE MUSIC 22 (B) P Blockley 7-11-7 P Niven
14 P- ROYAL CIGAR 236 W Page 7-11-7 J O'Gorman (7)
18 0 LORD PURNA 49 R Robinson 5-11-6 T P White (7)
19 000U TEMPLE TOBERA 7 W A Stephenson 5-11-6 A Merrigan (4)
22 U044 BELON BRIG 7 K Oliver 6-11-2 T Reed
23 -0UP DERCANNY 7 P Gibbon 7-11-2 Mr H Brown (7)
24 -P00 HATSU-GIRIE 35 R Swiers 6-11-2 Mr S Swiers (7)
27 30U0 PERFECT IMAGE 308 (S) W Storey 7-11-2 Fiona Storey

4-6 Donna Farina, 5-1 Temple Tobera, 8-1 Belon Brig, 10-1 Mulata, Perfect Image, 14-1 Noble Music, 20-1 others.

3.15 MORDON NOVICES HURDLE (£685: 2m) (18)

2 2 BOY PAINTER 35 J Johnson 4-11-5 R Marley (7)
3 -P04 CIRCUS BEAR 49 R Swiers 4-11-5 Mr S Swiers (7)
4 00 GRAND VALUE 70 W A Stephenson 4-11-5 A Merrigan (4)
5 0-43 HOTPLATE 8 D McCain 4-11-5 K Doolan
6 F JOHN CORBET 49 D Lee 4-11-5 Mr H Brown (7)
7 0- MASTER SALESMAN 335 T Donnelly 4-11-5 J Hansen
8 0 NO WAY BWANA 73 R Peacock 4-11-5 P Miller
12 00 SPRINGFIELD RIFLE 7 (B) M Dickinson 4-11-5 J R Quinn
14 0 ANRIKA 49 D Lee 4-11-0 P Hegarty (7)
15 00 DREAM ACADEMY 25 Mrs G Reveley 4-11-0 P Niven
22 9 IMPERIOUS KNAVE 7 D Moffatt 3-10-7 K Teelan
23 JACOBEAN CRACK Mrs C Postlethwaite 3-10-7 K Cotter (7)
25 SWORD BEACH M H Easterby 3-10-7 R Garritty (7)
26 TREBLEIM T Barnes 3-10-7 G Martin
27 0 BEN'S BIRTHDAY 35 P Beaumont 3-10-2 Mrs A Farrell
28 ELEGANT MARY T Barron 3-10-2 G Harker
29 0P GALA LOCH 35 S Payne 3-10-2 J O'Gorman (7)
32 000 STEGILLY 19 (B) A Brown 3-10-2 T P White (7)

6-4 Hotplate, 9-4 Boy Painter, 5-1 Sword Beach, 8-1 Circus Bear, 10-1 Springfield Rifle, 12-1 Jacobean Crack, 14-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: S Payne, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; T Barron, 4 from 16, 25.0%; J Haldane, 7 from 30, 23.3%; Mrs C Postlethwaite, 3 from 13, 23.1%; P Blockley, 3 from 13, 23.1%; K Stone, 3 from 13, 23.1%.

JOCKEYS: A Merrigan, 6 winners from 27 rides, 22.2%; G Harker, 11 from 62, 17.7%; P Niven, 13 from 75, 17.3%; J Hansen, 5 from 37, 13.5%. (Only qualifiers).

RUGBY UNION

Exeter returns to boost Moseley

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Whatever the brave new world of leagues in which we live - well, the Welsh do not, even if their union would like their senior clubs to - some traditions do not change. Thus the two *Hartlepool clubs, West and* **Rovers**, meet in their usual Boxing Day encounter today; **Bedford** play the **Old Paulines** and **London Irish** the **Old Millhillians.**

It is becoming increasingly harder to remain good neighbours since success in the league system may automatically move a club away from nearby rivals but Christmas is the time to do it. And you can hardly get more neighbourly than Gosforth and, across the road, **Northern** who are the hosts this afternoon. Gosforth have Clegg back in the centre, where he is paired with the promising Petyt.

Moseley, too, are strengthened at centre thanks to the return from duty with the Anglo-Scots of Exeter; he will take the field at Coundon Road against Coventry in a side also strengthened by the return from divisional rugby of Robson (scrum half) and Linnett (prop).

It seems a long time since Exeter last appeared for his club; that is because it is a long time. It was October 3 when a back injury put him out of contention and inter-district calls have preoccupied him this last month. Robson and Linnett last played on November 28, since when Linnett has sat on the Midlands replacement bench, watching his colleague performing with some distinction.

Coventry have Johnson and Robbins restored to their pack and Thomas returns at scrum half, though there is some doubt whether Lakey will be fit to play stand-off half because he has hamstring trouble. Since Moseley won at the Reddings 26-3 in October, there will be an extra edge to Coventry's play today.

Northampton welcome back Pearce at prop forward for their game with **Saracens** at Franklin's Gardens - two division two teams meeting in a friendly game, in which Smith, the burly Saracens centre, will hope to show more of his ability than the divisional championship permitted.

Gloucester recall Marment to their side to play **Lydney** but not in his usual position of full back; he comes into the centre instead of the unavailable Maclean. Pascall is back at tight-head prop and Cuff plays scrum half because Hannaford is also unavailable.

Pascall, of course, has been playing for the South-West these last three weeks. Laity, the centre who captains South Glamorgan Institute, played in the first divisional match before a training accident put him out of the next two but he returns for **Neath** against **Aberavon** today, outside Adrian Davies, the former Welsh schools captain and stand-off half.

Collins called in for Carr

The Barbarians have been forced to make a change to their side to play Leicester at Welford Road on Monday, December 28. Nigel Carr, who was injured in an IRA bomb explosion last April, has broken down in training with an ankle injury and his place is taken by the Welsh international, Ritchie Collins, of South Wales Police.

Bristol are packing four games into eight days, which seems excessive even if you are celebrating your centenary. Webb, their full back, will miss all of them and the club do not expect to see him again until January 23, when they play Bedford in the John Player Special Cup.

They field what amounts to a second XV against **Weston-super-Mare** today, saving their best for **Llanelli** on Monday when Thomas, the former Bridgend centre, is restored to the side. **Harlequins** are also in action on Monday, against **Richmond**, when Rose will captain the side in the absence of Olver, who will be playing for the **Barbarians.**

Rose is joined by another senior international, Salmon, and Moon, the B international, returns at scrum half.

Pack can keep the title in Edinburgh

By Ian McLauchlan

Much is at stake in the final games of the McEwan's Inter-District Championship to be played today. **Edinburgh** meet the **South of Scotland** at Myreside to decide the destination of the title while North and Midlands and Glasgow fight it *out for the wooden spoon in* Dundee.

Edinburgh have been less than impressive this year than last year when they won the title. They do, however, have home advantage and there is a determination in their approach to this particular match. The priority is a return to form by Sole and Forbes coupled with a higher workrate from the pack in general.

Their key players will be the Hastings brothers who could dominate the scoring while in the pack the Calder twins could tie up the South back row. With 11 internationals in their line-up, the Borderers undoubtedly start as favourites. They have scored 103 points and conceded only 16.

One of the main areas of interest will be at scrum half where the pugnacious Edinburgh man, Scott will play against the rising star Armstrong. Both are strong and like to run but it would suit the South cause if Armstrong were to settle for a serving game and allow the more experienced players outside him to dictate. A good result for Edinburgh could mean Brewster finding himself in the national line-up in his third international position of tighthead drop and that as captain. He has led the capital side on 16 occasions and only experienced two defeats a record which cannot be discounted.

In the battle to avoid the wooden spoon North and Midlands must be favourites to overcome a sadly disorganised Glasgow side who are now playing their third captain in four games. They have a new combination in the back row, the same in the second row while Barrett has been moved from stand-off through centre and finally to full back. Three different positions in four games does little to help a player's confidence.

North and Midlands, though beaten by 50 points last week, have stood by the same side.

Ringland at centre

By George Ace

Trevor Ringland, the Ballymena captain and Irish International right wing, reverts to the centre for this afternoon's Jack Kyle Cup match against Dungannon at Stevenson Park. Ringland took a fair amount of criticism *during his spell in the centre* earlier in the season but the results achieved during that run were infinitely better than those obtained since his return to the wing.

It may be purely coincidental but Ballymena have lost their last six matches, including two league games and a Boston Cup semi-final, since Ringland returned to the wing. And that is a mighty argument for moving him back into the centre.

Ballymena have won this annual encounter for the last eight years but Willie Anderson, one of Ireland's locks against Scotland next month, is quitely optimistic about his side's chances today. "We are playing well and Ballymena are not. I think we have every chance of taking them this time," Anderson said.

SCHOOLS RUGBY

The stirring feats of Bow and Liddiatt

By Michael Stevenson

St Cyres CS. from Penarth, successfully negotiated their final two matches, beating Cantonians HS and New College CS by identical margins — 34-3. This leaves them with the excellent record of 11 wins from 11 matches, having scored 337 points to 51 conceded.

Their second team has, remarkably, eight wins from eight matches to their credit and 249 points scored to just seven conceded. The master-in-charge. John Williams, who also coaches the Wales 18 group reports of the stirring feats of his scrum half, Mark Bow, who contributed 93 points (14 tries. 17 conversions and one penalty) and the left wing, Martin Liddiatt, who scored 21 tries.

King's Taunton, though a little overshadowed by Taunton School, did well to achieve nine wins and two losses, registering good victories in their final three matches against Blundells and Wellington away and Bryanston at home. The two defeats, both desperately close, were by Sherborne (6-7) and Christ's, Brecon (8-12).

The *Leys* have *enjoyed* another outstanding season and the team, Austin Jessop, their coach, believes is as good as their all-conquering team of three years ago, apart from the lack of a really high-class goal-kicker. The only match lost was the first of the season (7-13) to Ipswich. The Leys only had three tries scored against them all season by schools.

With nine wins and four losses (points for 190; against 104) **Colfe's School** had a good season, especially as it was a year of rebuilding. Junior rugby was also strong.

Bethany School, from Cranbrook, are a small school of 270 boys and have achieved seven wins, a draw and four defeats but they ended with the result which mattered most, a 12-9 victory over their friends, rivals and neighbours, Cranbrook.

After a number of mediocre years **King's, Gloucester** have enjoyed two good seasons. Coached by the Gloucester full back, Nick Marment, they have survived a serious attack of the cliff-hanger syndrome. They lost 9-10 to Dean Close but beat Wycliffe (9-8), Rendcomb (16-14) and Prior Park (3-0). Their only clear-cut defeat was by *Pate's GS* (22-6).

King Edward's, Bath, after three good seasons, have been rebuilding and have still managed seven wins from 12 games.

A toast to the year of the tasteless trophy

For burning up the greens: Alison Nicholas shows her candlepower as British Open women's golf champion at St Mellion

The whole world in his hands: Pfaff, of Bayern Munich, forced into a weightlifter's jerk as football's prize goalkeeper

It is a stock moment in televised sport: the slow pan around the stadium, the lingering look at people eating their sandwiches and idly discussing who is going to win, always ending up with an adoring shot of whatever ghastly trophy the unfortunate winner will receive.

Every single time this happens, and there must be hundreds of occasions every year, the commentator says with quivering voice: "And that is what it is all about . . ." And every time I want to scream at him: "No, it bloody well isn't."

What it is all about is skill, courage, beauty, mental strength, speed, power and love of victory. The accepted myth is that players long for "the glory of holding that trophy aloft". But it is a load of rubbish. They want to win for the pure love of winning and they would play as hard for a piece of Georgian silver as for the ugliest piece of plastic in creation. And they frequently do.

The function of many trophies is to carry the sponsors' name or logo in the presentation shot. The function of many other trophies is a fragrant field for speculation. They are a kind of three-dimensional version of the ink-blot test. The scope for Freudian interpretations of many of these bizarre shapes and towers and spikes is immense but doubtless the reason why they are kissed so often.

I have a theory that the true function of these trophies is to demean the athletes who receive them. The trophy says: "You have spent months, years, of your life preparing for this moment but in the wider scheme of things it don't amount to a hill o' beans."

The trophy says, and says it hilariously, that you might be awfully good at putting a ball in a hole or whacking a ball about, or whatever, but really this is a pretty useless activity when you come to think about it, isn't it? And here is a pretty useless and ridiculous object to emphasize the point.

Normally a winner gets something so hideous that if Pickles found it he would instantly bury it again. But athletes don't mind: they are prepared to accept any tribute to their victory, however inept. They are not in the game for trophies, they are not in it for the money, either: they are in it for victory. They live their lives in pursuit of victory, or excellence if you prefer, and in a moment of achievement are their eyes, I wonder, blind to the joke that the trophy makers are playing on them?

And what on earth do they *do* with the trophies afterwards? Do they put them on display? Do they build little shrines to themselves at home? Do they dust and polish them and feast their eyes on them forever afterwards?

Trophies are for winners, for those who have acquitted themselves perfectly. Trophies are not for everyone. What happens if you are a loser, playing in a team of losers? Say you play badly and lose, say you react to defeat with utter boorishness, say that in losing you shatter the conventions of the game, say that your behaviour causes an international incident? You do not get a trophy then. No, sir. You get a £1,000 bonus.

Simon Barnes

King of a united kingdom: Mike Tyson in full regalia after his crowning as undisputed heavyweight boxing champion in Las Vegas

Sealed with a loving kiss: Stephen Hendry is right on cue after pocketing snooker's Rothmans Grand Prix at Reading

The small ball, the big ball . . . and the hyperball. Gordon Brand (left), of Scotland, winner of the Scandinavian Open golf tournament in Stockholm, with runner-up Magnus Persson

The headless wonder: Ian Woosnam receiving his "Oscar," in the form of a torso, from the actress Isabella Rossellini for his performance in the Lancôme tournament

Clear as crystal, crisp as a corn flake: Joey McLoughlin's cycling tour of Britain ends with a snap, crackle, pop . . . and kiss

Up to his ears in cheers: Allan Border and his man-of-the-match souveair after a double century against New Zealand

One for the boot of the top-of-the-range Toyota: Porto footballers get their juggling act together after lifting the Toyota Cup world club championship by beating Penarol

Inscrutable shuttlecock: Li Lingwei serves up a Chinese smile after victory in the badminton World Cup women's singles

Just holding his own: Wayne Gardner puts a wrestler's (or rather motor cyclist's) grip on the the Brazilian 500cc Grand Prix prize

Moving the furniture into the hall of fame: Gallego, captain of River Plate, with football's Interamerica Cup

The man with the golden arm: Ivan Lendl with the European Economic Community racket, studded with 1,600 diamonds, which he won in Antwerp, and (right) with the crystal he lifted two weeks before in Sydney

A graphic trophy for excellence in the Grafic arts: Steffi Graf, of West Germany, grins and bears the weight of coming out on top in the recent Virginia Slims tournament in New York

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League

First division

Arsenal v Nottingham F (11.30)
Charlton v Portsmouth (11.30)
Chelsea v QPR (12.0)
Derby v Norwich
Everton v Luton
Newcastle v Manchester Utd
Oxford v Liverpool
Southampton v Tottenham
Watford v Sheffield Wed (12.0)
West Ham v Wimbledon (11.30)

Second division

Barnsley v Oldham
Birmingham v Plymouth
Bradford v Shrewsbury
Huddersfield v Stoke
Ipswich v C Palace
Leicester v Bournemouth (11.30)
Manchester C v Leeds (2.0)
Middlesbrough v Blackburn
Reading v Swindon (11.0)
Sheffield Utd v A Villa
WBA v Millwall

Third division

Brentford v Aldershot (11.0)
Brighton v Southend
Bristol R v Fulham
Bury v Wigan
Chester v Sunderland
Doncaster v York
Gillingham v Bristol C
Mansfield v Rotherham (11.30)
Notts Co v Chesterfield
P Vale v Northampton
Preston v Blackpool (11.0)
Walsall v Grimsby

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division (11.0): Belper v Long Eaton; Bridlington Trinity v Bridlington Town (2.0); Emley v Denaby; Grimethorpe MW v Hallam; Harrogate Railway v Pontefract Collieries; Thackley v Guiseley (3.0).

Fourth division

Burnley v Rochdale
Cardiff v Tranmere
Crewe v Swansea
Exeter v Colchester (12.0)
Halifax v Cambridge
Hartlepool v Bolton
Hereford v Newport (11.30)
Peterborough v Leyton Orient
Scarborough v Carlisle
Scunthorpe v Darlington
Stockport v Wrexham

GM Vauxhall Conference

Altrincham v Macclesfield
Barnet v Enfield
Boston Utd v Lincoln (11.0)
Dagenham v Wealdstone
Fisher v Welling
Kettering v Wycombe
Kidderminster v Cheltenham (11.0)
Runcorn v Northwich
Sutton Utd v Maidstone (11.0)
Telford v Stafford
Weymouth v Bath

Beazer Homes League

Premier division

Bedworth v Nuneaton (11.0)
Bromsgrove v Alvechurch
Chelmsford v Cambridge City (11.0)
Corby v Burton
Crawley v Dorchester
Dartford v Ashford (11.0)
Gosport v Fareham (11.30)
Leicester Utd v Shepshed
Redditch v Worcester (11.30)
Willenhall v VS Rugby (11.0)
Witney v Aylesbury (11.0)

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Barnstaple; Chippenham v Melksham (11.0); Clandown v Paulton (10.45); Clevedon v Weston-super-Mare (11.0); Dawlish v Exmouth (11.0); Mangotsfield v Bristol Manor Farm; Minehead v Taunton (11.0); Saltash v Liskeard; Torrington v Plymouth Argyle (2.30).

Fine Fare Scottish League

Premier division

Dundee Utd v Celtic
Dunfermline v Motherwell
Falkirk v Aberdeen
Hibernian v St Mirren
Morton v Hearts
Rangers v Dundee

First division

Clydebank v Aidrie
Hamilton v Dumbarton
Meadowbank v Kilmarnock
Partick v E Fife
Queen of Sth v Forfar
Raith v Clyde

Second division

Albion v Arbroath
Alloa v Stranraer
Ayr v Stirling
Berwick v Queen's Park
Brechin v Cowdenbeath
E Stirling v Montrose
St Johnstone v Stenhsemuir

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Bridgnorth v Bilston; Buckingham v Banbury (11.30); Dudley v Stourbridge (at Stourbridge); Gloucester v Forest Green; Grantham v King's Lynn; Halesowen v Atherstone; Hednesford v Coventry Sporting (11.30); Mile Oak v Moor Green; Sutton Coldfield v Paget Rangers; Trowbridge v Merthyr Tydfil; Wellingborough v Rushden. Southern division: Burnham v Baldock; Canterbury v Chatham; Dunstable v Bury; Folkestone v Dover; Gravesend and Northfleet v Corinthian (11.30); Poole v Salisbury; Ruislip v Hounslow; Sheppey v Thanet; Tonbridge v Hastings; Waterlooville v Andover.

ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: National division (2.15): Aberystwyth v Brecon; Briton Ferry v Port Talbot; Llanelli v Haverfordwest; Maesteg Park v Bridgend; Pembroke v Milford; Ton Pentre v Blaenrhondda.

VAUXHALL-OPEL LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Harrow; Bishop's Stortford v Hayes; Bognor v Carshalton; Bromley v Croydon; Dulwich v Tooting and Mitcham (11.30); Hendon v Leyton-Wingate; Leytonstone-Ilford v Kingstonian (11.0); Wokingham v Slough (11.0); Yeovil v Farnborough. First division: Billericay v Walton and Hersham (11.0); Boreham Wood v Bracknell (11.30); Chesham v Grays; Hampton v Worthing; Leatherhead v Walthamstow Avenue; Southwick v Lewes; Staines v Marlow; Stevenage Borough v Kingsbury; Woking v Oxford City. Second division north: Barton v Tring (11.0); Berkhamsted v Royston (11.0); Haringey Borough v Letchworth GC; Harlow v Collier Row; Hemel Hempstead v Witham (11.0); Hertford v Vauxhall Motors; Heybridge v Aveley; Rainham v Saffron Walden (11.0); Tilbury v Clapton. Second division south: Banstead v Dorking; Camberley v Molesey; Chertsey v Chalfont St Peter; Egham v Whyteleafe; Feltham v Epsom and Ewell (11.30); Horsham v Eastbourne United; Maidenhead United v Hungerford; Petersfield v Harefield.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Morecambe; Buxton v Matlock; Gainsborough v Frickley (11.15); Gateshead v Workington; Mossley v Horwich; South Liverpool v Oswestry (2.15); Southport v Marine; Witton v Rhyl; Worksop v Goole. First division: Accrington Stanley v Fleetwood; Alfreton v Eastwood Town (11.0); Droylsden v Irlam; Eastwood Hanley v Leek; Farsley v Harrogate; Lancaster v Radcliffe; Netherfield v Penrith; *Stalybridge v Curzon Ashton*.

DRYBROUGHS NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Brandon v Crook; Blyth v North Shields (3.15); Chester-le-Street v Billingham Synthonia; Ryhope CA v Easington; Shildon v Bishop Auckland (3.15); South Bank v Whitby (3.15); Spennymoor v Ferryhill (3.15); Tow Law v Consett (2.15).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Bangor v Portadown; Cliftonville v Newry; Coleraine v Linfield; Distillery v Crusaders; Glenavon v Carrick; Glentoran v Ards; Larne v Ballymena.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division (2.0): Bootle v Glossop; Colwyn Bay v Kirkby; Darwen v Prescot Cables (3.0); Ellesmere Port and Neston v Atherton LR; Formby v Rossendale; Salford v Leyland Motors; Skelmersdale v Clitheroe (3.0); Warrington v Colne Dynamoes.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES

Abertillery v Ebbw Vale
Bath v Clifton
Bedford v Old Paulines
Birkenhead Pk v Lpool St H (2.30)
Bristol v Weston-super-Mare
Broughton Pk v Vale of Lune (2.15)
Camborne v Redruth (2.45)
Cardiff v Pontypridd
Coventry v Moseley
Cross Keys v Crumlin
Exeter v Torquay (2.30)
Harrogate v Roundhay (2.0)
Llanelli v London Welsh
L Irish v Old Millhillians (2.15)
Lydney v Gloucester
Maesteg v Bridgend
Neath v Aberavon
Newbridge v Newport
Northampton v Saracens (3.30)
Northern v Gosforth (2.15)
Nuneaton v Rugby (2.30)
Orrell v Widnes (2.30)
Otley v Morley (2.15)
Penarth v S Wales Police
Pontypool v Tredegar
Preston Grhprs v Fylde (2.30)
Sale v Wilmslow
Swansea v Glamorgan W
Waterloo v Kendal (2.15)
W Hartlepool v Hartlepool R (2.15)

McEWAN'S SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

Edinburgh v South (at Myreside, 2.0)
North and Midlands v Glasgow (at Mayfield, Dundee, 2.0)

ULSTER: Jack Kyle Cup: Dungannon v Ballymena. Other games: Academy v Academy President's XV; Ards v Malone. Collegians v Exiles XV; Instonians v Old Campbellians.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Bisley Office Equipment Southern Merit Table: Henley v Marlow. British Car Auctions Old Boys Merit Table: Old Alleynians v Old Whitgiftians; Old Haberdashers v Old *Merchant Taylors*. Foster Beard Middlesex Merit Table: Old Kingsburians v Sudbury Court. Tandem Computers Seven Counties Merit Table: Thurrock v Sutton and Epsom. Club matches: Ampthill v Tabard; Antlers v Tunbridge Wells; Barnet v Finchley; Beckenham v Metropolitan Police 4 division; Chichester v Havant; Chingford v Wanstead; Datchworth v Letchworth; Dorking v Old Reigatians; Gillingham Anchorians v Old Williamsonians; Gravesend v Thanet Wanderers; Guildford and Godalming v Haslemere; High Wycombe v Chairman's XV; Horsham v Lewes; Ipswich v Southend; Jersey v Exiles; Luton v Hemel Hempstead; Norwich v Redmayne's XV; Old Albanians v Harpenden; Old Croydonians v Mitcham; Old Dunstonians v Bromley; Old Freemans v KCS Old Boys; Old Gaytonians v Old Emanuel; Old Verulamians v Biggleswade; Old Wandsworthians v Surrey Police; Old Westcliffians v President's XV; Oxford Old Boys v Abingdon; Redingensians v Camberley; Reigate v Effingham; Saffron Walden v Cheshunt; Seaford v Old Brightonians; Southampton v Portsmouth; Stockwood Park v Leighton Buzzard; Stroud v Cheltenham; Tonbridge v Crowborough; Upper Clapton v Bishop's Stortford; Wasps Vandals v Fullerians.

MIDLANDS: Club matches: Ashbourne v Belper; Aston OE v Spartans; Aylestone St James v Belgrave; Banbury v Barker's Butts; Bedworth v Broad Street; Birchfield v Old Saltleians; Birmingham v West Midlands Police; Bridgnorth v Ludlow; Camp Hill v Leamington; Coalville v Leicester Swifts; Dixonians v Five Ways; Dudley Kingswinford v Stourbridge; Erdington v Stoke Old Boys; GEC Coventry v Pinley; Handsworth v Shrewsbury; Kenilworth v Stratford; Kidderminster Carolians v Sutton Coldfield; Kings Norton v Selly Oak; Long Buckby v Keresley; Luctonians v Hereford; Newark v Market Rasen; Newbold v Old Leamingtonians; Oadby Wyggestonians v Westleigh; Old Laurentians v Exiles XV; Old Moseleians v Birmingham Civil Service; Old Newtonians v Vipers; Old Wheatleyans v Old Coventrians; Rushden and Higham v Kettering; Solihull v Silhillians; Stafford v Walsall; *Tamworth v Paviors; Trinity Guild* v West Leicester; Wellingborough Town v Kibworth; Whitchurch v Sandbach.

NORTH: Club matches: Acklam v Mowden Park; Airebronians v Wensleydale; BP Chemicals v Hullensians; Bradford Salem v Baildon; Bramley v Moortown; Calder Vale v Blackburn; Caldy v Old Anselmians; De La Salle v Oldham; Halifax Vandals v Leeds YMCA; Ilkley v Ripon; Ionians v Grimsby; Kersal v Eccles; Leodiensians v Yarnbury; Lymm v Warrington; Manchester v Winnington Park; Marist v Hessle; Northallerton v York; Old Brodleians v Cleckheaton; Old Hymerians v Hull and ER; Old Modernians v Rodillians; Otley v Morley; Roundhegians v West Leeds; Ruskin Park v Aspull; Sandal v Wharfedale; Scarborough v Malton and Norton; Sedgley Park v Ashton-on-Mersey; Selby v York RI; Thornensians v Pocklington; Tyldesley v Littleborough; Wetherby v Wath-on-Dearne; West Park v Southport; West Park Bramhope v Old Otliensians; Wheatley Hills v Worksop; Wigan v Leigh; Yorkshire CW v Knottingley.

HOCKEY

CLUB MATCHES (2.15): Bedford v Aylesbury; Bury St Edmunds v Bishop's Stortford; Cliftonville v Thanetians; Exiles v Harleston Magpies; Herne Bay v Mersham Russetts; Middleton v Chichester; Norfolk Wanderers v Colchester; Old Williamsonians v Guildford and Godalming; Richings Park v Old Merchant Taylors; Banbury v Stratford; Birmingham Municipal v Bromsgrove; Cannock v Aldridge; GEC Coventry v Kings Heath; GEC Rugby v Leicester; Hathersage v Sheffield; Horton House v Corby; Kingswinford v Ludlow; Mansfield v Worksop; Nuneaton v Old Halesonians; Olton and West Warwickshire v Old Silhillians; South Nottingham v Ashby; Stone v North Stafford; Sutton Coldfield v Wombourne; Wolverhampton v Finchfield.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Leeds v Halifax. Second division: Batley v Dewsbury (11.30); Carlisle v Barrow; Featherstone v Wakefield (11.30); Springfield v Keighley; Workington v Whitehaven (2.15); York v Bramley (12.0).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Ayr Bruins v Dundee Tigers (7.0); Fife Flyers v Murrayfield Racers (7.15).

TOMORROW

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford v Hull (3.30); Hull KR v Castleford; Hunslet v Leigh (3.30); Salford v Swinton; Widnes v Warrington; Wigan v St Helens. Second division: Bramley v Batley (3.30); Doncaster v Sheffield (2.30); Mansfield v Runcorn; Oldham v Rochdale.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee Tigers v Fife Flyers (7.0); Durham Wasps v Solihull (6.30); Murrayfield Racers v Peterborough Pirates (6.30); Streatham Redskins v Whitley Warriors (6.15).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Sparkhill 5-miles road race (11.0); New Zealand cross-country trophy (at Chigwell Row, 10.30).

مكرر من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Andrew Longmore on a Scottish farmer ploughing his way through the desert

Grand old man of the Sahara

While some will spend today recovering from the excesses of Christmas and dimly contemplating the New Year, Andrew Cowan will be heading off to Paris for his annual rendezvous with what he calls "three weeks of murder." He knows exactly what the New Year will bring; not jollity, not a quick two-step down Princes Street but hot days, cold nights, blinding storms and terrifying speed. In other words, the Paris-Dakar Rally.

The extraordinary thing about Cowan, however, is that he is old enough to know better. At 51, he is – though he might not like the reference – the Grand Old Man of British motor sport. He competed in his first RAC Rally when the current world champion, Juha Kankkunen, was one-year-old. He's won two London/Sydney marathons and countless other endurance rallies, he has rolled his Escort down the Andes and survived and driven Hillman Imps beyond their limits in the Monte Carlo.

He could even have won the Paris/Dakar if he had not stopped twice to repair the car of his team mate and eventual winner, Zanirolli, in 1985. He has nothing to prove to anybody. Yet, come January 1, there he will be with his faithful co-driver, Johnstone Syer, at the wheel of his Mitsubishi Pajero heading out of Paris at the start of the tenth Paris/Dakar rally.

So why does he do it? Is it just to fill in a slack time on his farm in Berwickshire? No, he actually enjoys it.

"Yes, I do enjoy it – at least from about six days out of Dakar and for 10 months of the year. The rest of the time, I think to myself 'Why am I doing this?' But I've always been good at endurance rallies. My reputation has been built on being able to stay awake and on being able to drive as fast in the last 100 miles as in the first 100," he says.

Long-distance exploits

Through his long-distance exploits in the early 70s – when there was a craze for doing daft things like driving from London to Munich via Nigeria – Cowan earnt his nickname of "Marathon man." And he does not have to look far outside the rolling countryside of his native Berwickshire to find the source for his success.

"Being brought up on a farm certainly helped me in my old style rallying and on events like the Paris/Dakar. Like a farmer, you can't rush things; you have to plan and conserve. I've also been driving four-wheel drive vehicles all my life. I was brought up on a tractor and round here no one ever gritted the roads so it was always slippery. It's a bit like the Scandinavians and the way they dominate forest driving," he says.

Those same conditions taught car control to another Scottish farmer/driver from the borders, Jim Clark. If he had been alive today Clark would have been exactly the same age as Cowan and the family still farm a few miles up the road from Cowan's own 300 acres just west of Berwick. Both learnt their racing in the Berwick and District Motor Club, one of the most famous of all car clubs.

In fact, the whole area is steeped in motor racing. A battered old Hillman Hunter, laid to rust in Cowan's farmyard, was one of the earliest cars driven by the rally driver, Louise Aitken-Walker, who once came to Cowan for a little tuition. "We bashed it round the field for a few times – she was pretty good even then," and the barn houses, a few Charolais cows and the original Mitsubishi Pajero. That was supposed to fall apart back in 1983 in testing in North Africa as proof that it was not tough enough to do the Paris/Dakar. Unfortunately, it kept going and Mitsubishi's interest in the rally began. They won the marathon class in 1983 and have competed ever since, completing a unique 1-2 in 1985.

But in becoming the first major manufacturer to enter, Mitsubishi inadvertently started a ball rolling which Cowan for one fears might end in fragments. In the past two years, with the arrival of teams such as Peugeot and Range Rover the stakes and the speeds have risen dramatically.

Romantic convoy to see the sights

Suddenly, manufacturers have realised the marketing importance of the event and what started as a romantic convoy to see the sights of the Sahara has become, says Cowan, a potential death trap. He admits to being more concerned than usual about this year's event.

"Drivers like Pescarolo, Vatanen and Kankkunen mean business. These guys only know how to drive flat out and that really worries me because, no matter how experienced you are, the desert is very difficult to read. If you are going at 120mph and a big hole appears in front of you, what do you do? It could be terrible this year," he says, shaking his head and sucking the end of his glasses with the air of a distracted schoolmaster.

With the experience of five previous Paris/Dakar rallies behind him, Cowan knows what terrible means. It means sand storms in the Tenere Desert, choking dust in Algeria, stifling heat in Mauritania and the prospect of getting lost everywhere.

Though the Mitsubishi team will have two trucks full of spares on the rally itself, and two mechanics for each of their four cars following in an aircraft, it might also mean repairing your own car knee deep in sand. Above all, it means cold nights.

"It's so cold sometimes in the Sahara that the zip on your sleeping bag freezes. I hate that,' says Cowan, which is strange in a way because as soon as the rally is over – even before the victory parade – Cowan will be booking his passage back to the wintery piece of his beloved Berwickshire, to his farm and his fishing.

Though he is now spending more of his time as team manager for Mitsubishi's world championship rally challenge next year, deep down Cowan's big heart still belongs to the land. "I could give up driving tomorrow – no bother – and come back to farm and fish. I love driving cars fast and I would miss that. But farming? I couldn't give that up; it's in your bones."

Marathon man: Cowan looks ahead to his rendezvous with "three weeks of murder"

FOOTBALL: VENABLES TURNS A DEFENSIVE MEASURE INTO AN ATTACKING PLOY

Off-side trap could shelter Spurs from winter storms

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Terry Venables, a manager respected for his defensive organization, could be tempted to protect Tottenham Hotspur by dragging them inside an off-side trap of their own making where they could hibernate safely for the winter. Considering their current position, twelfth in the First Division, it would not be an improbable New Year's resolution.

He was accused by more than a few fellow managers in a survey conducted recently by *The Times* of introducing the tediously negative tactic when he was in charge at Queen's Park Rangers. Yet he declares that he did not do so then nor will he do so now at White Hart Lane.

Without disregarding Tottenham's historic tradition for engaging in attractive football, he intends to reinforce his rearguard but only because he has found it to be alarmingly threadbare. He will not allow opponents room to display their own talents but he will restrict them in a manner which he sees as constructive rather than destructive.

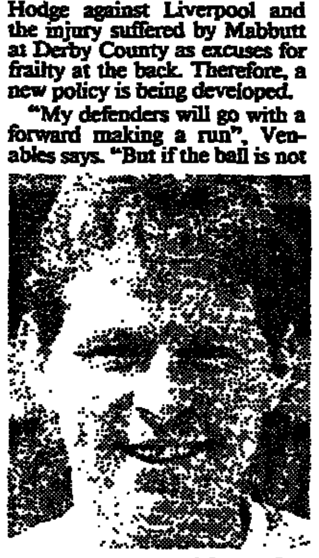
A year ago Tottenham were considered the most exciting side in the country. On December 27 they travelled to Coventry City and lost 4-3. The reaction of their manager encapsulated their attitude. Overlooking the defeat, David Pleat stated that "You couldn't wish to see a better game."

Predictable only in their adventure, they received lavish praise after last season's FA Cup final, even though they were beaten again, 3-2, by the same opponents. Yet, in those scorelines, lies a clue that explains their recent fate – a dispiriting sequence of 10 games without a win.

As long as Clive Allen resembled a goal-scoring machine and Hoddle kept spraying his creative brilliance, Tottenham's defensive inadequacies remained hidden. Once Allen started missing the simplest of chances and Hoddle had departed along with Gough, they were exposed as a side that scarcely knew how to protect itself.

Although Tottenham's formation has been disrupted in two of the three competitive games under Venables, he is not prepared to use the dismissal of Hodge against Liverpool and the injury suffered by Mabbutt at Derby County as excuses for frailty at the back. Therefore, a new policy is being developed.

"My defenders will go with a forward making a run", Venables says. "But if the ball is not released, he will stop and let the forward go. If the opponent is then caught off-side, that is not our fault. You can't afford to be dictated to.



Clive Allen: lost his touch

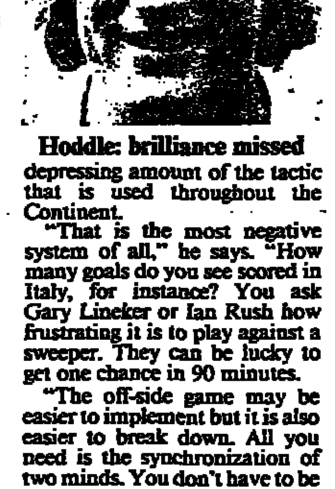
"I don't consider that playing the off-side game. I have never told any of my players actively to step up but I do believe in advancing the back four, who move as though they are roped together, to 10 or 15 yards beyond the penalty area.

"That is an attacking ploy. Because your midfield men don't have to cover so much ground or retreat so far, they can make more runs into the opposing half. That is why all the teams I have been associated with have always scored goals."

Although Venables agrees that the off-side tactic is becoming more prevalent in the domestic game, he can forsee it being discarded. "All we need is for the teams who are using it to be beaten 6-0 once or twice and people will start to question whether it is the right thing to do."

The example of Queen's Park Rangers illustrates how quickly an idea can be withdrawn. Having conceded 14 goals in five successive defeats, Jim Smith is considering rejecting the sweeper system, which was so successful at the start of the season, for the more conventional English style of defence.

Ron Greenwood feels that if a side employing a sweeper wins the title, "it would do our game the world of good". Venables, an admirer of the former national manager, disagrees. During his years at Barcelona, he saw a depressing amount of the tactic that is used throughout the Continent.



Hoddle: brilliance missed

"That is the most negative system of all," he says. "How many goals do you see scored in Italy, for instance? You ask Gary Lineker or Ian Rush how frustrating it is to play against a sweeper. They can be lucky to get one chance in 90 minutes.

"The off-side game may be easier to implement but it is also easier to break down. All you need is the synchronization of two minds. You don't have to be quick. Players that are quick charge into the trap more often than anybody else. You just have to be a bit smart."

Venables will begin a more genuine appraisal of his new side over the next week. After the forthcoming four fixtures, starting today at Southampton, he can build the foundations which are unlikely to be securely in place until next season. Even during the construction work, Tottenham promise to be anything but boring.

McFaul's call for urgency

By Ian Ross

Willie McFaul, the Newcastle United manager, believes his players must introduce a ruthless streak into their game if they are to realize their rich potential.

Despite taking encouragement from recent results and deriving immense pleasure from his side's often flamboyant style, McFaul admits that he would like to see a change in attitude and application at St James Park.

"I have been delighted with several of our performances this season but very disappointed with the results. We should be far better off than we are at present – much higher up the first division table. I know that, the players know that and I'm sure that our supporters do as well," he said.

"The basic problem as I see it is that we are just not hungry enough for three points. It is all well and good picking up a newspaper and reading about the praise which is being heaped on us by rival managers and players but at the end of the day that sort of thing counts for very little. I'm a man who has always believed that footballers should entertain but that should not be at the expense of winning games.

"I want us to continue to entertain as we have been doing but I also want us to show that instinctive hunger which all good sides must have. Teams that challenge for the Football League Championship are capable of both picking up points and satisfying the supporters. Indeed, some of those top teams do occasionally sacrifice entertainment in favour of points which is understandable. But there is no fear at Newcastle United because we do have confidence in our own abilities," he added.

McFaul cited last Saturday's game against West Ham United when Newcastle won the praise of the Upton Park crowd but lost a point in the dying stages as a classic example of an all too familiar dilemma.

"We really should have got something out of that one. We had a general chat about things on Monday when I stressed the importance of not letting the opposition off the hook. I always encourage my side to play attractive football but sometimes, after a defeat, I sit down and wonder if a different approach might not pay a higher dividend."

Although Newcastle have already accepted that the League title will not be coming to rest in the north-east this season they can still have a major say in its ultimate destiny.

This afternoon they play host to Manchester United before facing Liverpool at Anfield on Monday and Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on New Year's Day. "It is a formidable programme but we are looking forward to pitting our wits against three of the clubs currently involved at the top of the table. The game against Manchester United is absolutely vital to us because it is essential to get off to a good start when you are faced by a hectic and congested programme," McFaul said.

Peter Jackson, the Newcastle centre-back, will miss today's game and the trip to Merseyside as he is serving a two-match suspension.

Goalkeeper signs for Sunderland

Sunderland, the third division leaders, have signed the Bristol Rovers goalkeeper, Tim Carter, for £35,000. Carter, a former England youth international, aged 20, was recalled by Rovers from a loan spell with Newport County.

● Port Vale, of the third division, signed a midfield player, Simon Mills, from York City for £35,000 on Christmas Eve. Mills, aged 24, will make his debut at Northampton Town at Vale Park today.

Boston may reap the festive benefit

By Paul Newman

The boom in GM Vauxhall Conference attendances this season is set to produce a series of record crowds over the holiday period. With the figures already up by some 25 per cent on last year, even the league record gate of 5,640, set by Scarborough at the end of last season, is under threat.

The biggest crowd today is likely to be at Boston United, who have already sold nearly 2,500 tickets for the first ever league visit of their local rivals, Lincoln City. More than half the sales have been to Lincoln supporters, who can attend only by ticket, and all 1,300 available seats have been sold. The local police have cut the capacity in one stand from 500 to 150 for safety reasons. Boston's record crowd of 10,086 will not be broken, but the attendance is certain to be their biggest for a league match since 1974, when 3,500 people saw them beat Morecambe to win the Northern Premier League championship.

Boston have had an excellent run since the appointment of George Kerr as manager last month. After going eight matches without a win they won their first four games under his charge before losing 1-0 away to Barnet, the Conference leaders.

As Lincoln's manager twelve months ago, Kerr watched his side share a goalless draw on Boxing Day at home to Stockport County in front of a crowd of 2,843. The result left Lincoln in eighth place in the fourth division, still well in contention for promotion. The slide which ended in their relegation to the Conference and Kerr's departure as manager began the following month.

"If someone had told me a year ago that on the following Boxing Day I would be managing Boston and watching them play Lincoln in the Conference I would have laughed in their face," he recalled. "I certainly wouldn't have welcomed the idea at the time, but now I'm really looking forward to the occasion. There's always been tremendous local rivalry between the two clubs and my only regret is that we're meeting in the Conference and not in the Football League.

"The match is probably more important to Lincoln than to ourselves. They've spent a lot of money in the hope of getting back into the League straight away. We haven't realistically got a chance of promotion this season and I haven't spent anything on players yet. We're looking to build a team this year and make a real push for promotion next season."

The second biggest gate today is likely to be at Barnet for the visit of Enfield. The same fixture on the same day last year was watched by 4,130.

However, the most important game of the holiday period will be Barnet's visit to Weymouth on January 2. The two clubs are threatening to break away from the rest of the field in the way that Barnet and Scarborough did last season and their meeting has additional interest because it will be the last match at Weymouth for Peter Guthrie, the Dorset club's goalkeeper, before his £100,000 transfer to Tottenham Hotspur. Weymouth have sold nearly all their seats and are expecting a crowd of up to 5,000.

Close game expected

Twelve points are at stake over the next eight days in the Smirnoff Irish League and the congestion at the top of the table may well have thinned out when fixtures on the first Saturday in the New Year are completed (George Ace writes).

Glentoran, Ards and Newry Town are the pace-setters on 14 points from seven matches and are followed by seven teams between 10 and 13 points.

Pride of place this afternoon is the match between Coleraine and Linfield at the Showground.

Liverpool ready for easy pickings

By Clive White

It would take a faith stronger than that of small children in Santa Claus to believe that Liverpool will not get just what they want for Christmas and the New Year – an even bigger advantage at the head of the championship.

There is little cheer in that respect for their rivals as they set about the mammoth task of trying to make a contest of the First Division by pegging back Liverpool's seven-point lead over the congested holiday period of four games in eight days for most clubs. But judging by the quality of opposition that confronts the leading clubs Liverpool look capable of killing off everyone else's interest in the title come the end of next Saturday afternoon.

Liverpool have by far the easiest programme among the leading clubs. All four opponents, starting with Oxford United today, are in the bottom half of the table. With Newcastle United and Coventry City to follow at home and then Derby County away, Liverpool can contemplate maximum points.

On the other hand, Everton, the champions, are the team many people feel have the credentials to offer the most worthwhile challenge, have the most daunting series of matches; Luton Town and Nottingham Forest at home, Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday way. Everton might just as well have sent the trophy across Stanley Park yesterday as a Christmas present to their neighbours.

Arsenal, no doubt, will remain the closest, if distant threat, though they and Nottingham Forest are liable to do nothing more than spoil each other's party at Highbury today. Continuity in personnel remains one of Arsenal's chief weapons though when you have a squad as big and as talented as Liverpool's, injuries and changes do not seem quite so serious. The days when Liverpool won a championship with only 13 players may now be in the past.

Arsenal are unlikely to make changes today though George Graham, the manager, may well toy with the idea of starting the game with young Merson, who came on as substitute last week to extract a fine save from Southall, the Everton goalkeeper. What Graham wouldn't give for a son like Nigel Clough, the scorer of a rapid fire treble against Queen's Park Rangers last week.

Forest's good form is being maintained while without the dazzling pace and verve of Carr, whose foot injury will again ensure that he remains immobile today. The injury was received at West Ham five weeks ago and there have been two abortive comebacks since in training. That the loss of one player has, in the words of Brian Clough, the manager, "drained our resources" is an indication of the handicap under which Forest must launch their assault upon the championship.

It is as well that Chelsea's squad is a copious one. Not once this season has John Hollins, the manager, been able to call upon his strongest side. But things are looking up. Their impressive young Scots, Durie and Clarke, both injured along with Pates in a pulsating match at Anfield recently, are almost certain to return against Queen's Park Rangers at Stamford Bridge today after missing the drawn games against West Ham United and Charlton Athletic.

Wicks, who has been out for a couple of months after a back operation, is also making "lightning recovery" and today Hollins can also call upon Bumstead, Hazard and Murphy if necessary. Niedzwiecki, the goalkeeper, had the plaster removed yesterday from his injured leg and Chelsea are looking for a swift recovery now from him too.

It is all a marked improvement on earlier in the season when Chelsea were without as many as nine players. Only last week Coady had to play for the reserves on one afternoon and then dash off to Manchester to be substitute in a Simod Cup tie.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds promised a hot reception by amateurs of Kells

By Keith Macklin

For Alan O'Fee and Barry Smith Christmas arrived early in the shape of the draw for the preliminary round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. O'Fee is chairman and Barry Smith the coach of Kells, the amateur club from the West Cumbrian village who have drawn the biggest plum of the round with the visit of costly, star-spangled Leeds next month.

The match will pack to the doors the compact ground of the Second Division club Whitehaven, neighbours and friends of Kells. When the Cumbrian amateurs reached the Challenge Cup competition's opening round for the third successive season Barry Smith said: "We'll give any team a round in West Cumbria. There'll be a terrific atmosphere, and we'll have the county solidly behind us."

Smith may quail inwardly at the thought of his charges having to face up to the likes of Garry Schofield, David Creasser, Ray Ashton and the Leeds quartet of Australians, but outwardly he exudes quiet confidence. Smith points out that Kells held Fulham to a 4-4 draw in last year's Challenge Cup game at Whitehaven, and were only narrowly beaten in the replay.

Alan O'Fee has no doubts about the reasons for the runaway success of the team in Cumbrian amateur rugby league in the past five seasons, in which they have appeared in no fewer than 49 finals at all levels of competition. "We run as many as six teams at the weekend", he said. "We encourage youngsters of all ages from schoolboys upwards to come and play rugby league at Kells, and we make sure there's a team for them to play in, so they don't drift to rugby union."

Meanwhile Kells' opponents have bigger fish to fry today. Leeds sit comfortably in fifth place in the First Division table, eight points behind the leaders Widnes but with two games in hand, and at 11.30 a.m. today they start the ball rolling with an important local derby with **Halifax**, who are struggling at the moment but who always lift their game at Headingley. The Second Division leaders, **Wakefield Trinity**, also choose a morning kick-off for their tough derby game at **Featherstone**, while third placed **Barrow** have a demanding Cumbrian derby at **Carlisle** this afternoon.

Tomorrow's top games are the derbies between the leaders **Widnes** and **Warrington** at Naughton Park, and **Wigan** and **St Helens** at Central Park. Both are big crowd-pullers and four-point fixtures in the championship battle. **Bradford** Northern, in third place are at home to Hull. In the Second Division the vital clashes are **Doncaster** v **Sheffield Eagles**, which is being played as an experiment at the Sheffield United football ground and **Oldham** v **Rochdale Hornets**.

CYCLING

Elliott set to pull his weight

By Peter Bryan

Malcolm Elliott, the Milk Race winner this year and back in Sheffield after two months in Australia, admitted that he had a weight problem, one of 10lb. But he reckons that he will comfortably shed half of that surplus before he joins his new team, Fagor, next month.

Elliott, heavily tanned, looked conspicuous among his neighbours and had almost forgotten the incident in Australia last month that made headlines and saw him disqualified from the Sun Tour, a race he won in 1985.

He was involved in a punch-up with an Italian, Alessio Di Basco, when Elliott would not help in chasing a break-away group that included his team colleague, Steve Jones. "The Italian ranted and raved at me and eventually rode me on to the gravel and knocked me off my bike," Elliott claimed.

"Nothing happened to me like that before. I got back to the bunch and told Di Basco that he should not start something he couldn't finish. We had a right set-to at the end of which I just took off my number to signify that for me the race was over. Both of us were disqualified."

He joins the Fagor team, led next season by Stephen Roche, in Spain on January 1 to be measured for his 1988 machines

He has been named as the squad's No. 1 sprinter, and would prefer a ride in the Giro d'Italia rather than in the Vuelta, the Spanish equivalent, because he feels the course is better suited to him.

ICE HOCKEY

Showing a way back for Britain

By Norman de Mesquita

Three matches which could help lead Britain back into senior international competition, following the disbanding of the team in 1981, take place on Monday.

In 1936, Britain won the world, Olympic and European titles and, in 1950, the world championships were staged in London when the British team, although never challenging for the title, was at least respectable.

But, after falling some way behind the rest of the world and finishing bottom of Group C in the 1981 world championship, Britain ceased to compete at senior level.

But there has been a resurgence among the junior and under-19 ranks and this has encouraged the British Ice Hockey Association to aim for a return to senior competition in the spring of 1989.

To this end, it is hoped to stage a number of games during the next year involving English, Scottish and British teams. On Monday, in the north-east of England, Britain's under-19 team meets Cleveland Bombers at the Billingham Forum and, at Durham Ice Rink, England and Scotland play at under-16 level.

Perhaps the most interesting of all is the game at Bracknell in which an England side meets a team made up of Canadian imports who are playing for second division sides in the Heineken League. The Canadians include several players with premier division experience, such as Urquhart, Crapper and Budz.

SPORT ON TV

Today

GYMNASTICS: World championships: A compilation from Rotterdam. BBC2: 1.35 p.m.

RACING: 12.45, 1.15, 1.45 and 2.20 races from Kempton Park. C4: 12.30 p.m.

SAINT AND GREAVSIE: ITV: 1.05 p.m. Results service: 4.45 p.m.

SNOOKER 1987: Highlights of the year. BBC2: 11.50 p.m.

Tomorrow

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The end of America's National Football League season with play-offs and Superbowl XXII in sight. C4: 6 p.m.

YACHTING

Record for Sydney to Hobart under threat

Sydney (Reuter) – One-ton yachts are expected to be the main winners in the Sydney to Hobart ocean classic which starts today. Officials are predicting a close, fast race for corrected time placings between the Australian yachts, Joint Venture, Sagacious V and Madeline's Daughter and the overseas entries which include New Zealand's Fair Share and Mad Max, and, from Hong Kong, Highland Fling.

North-easterly winds have been forecast for the first 48 hours at least, with winds of up to 20 to 25 knots on the second day, making for a speedy spinnaker run down the New South Wales coast. They are expected to be followed by a south to south-easterly change.

These conditions will favour the fast running one-tonners and the southerly later in the race is likely to give those at the front of the 158-yacht fleet an added push.

The weather is expected to produce a battle between the big maxi yachts for line honours and the race record of two days, 14 hours and 36 minutes, set by the American maxi, Kialoa, in 1975, could fall. The world's biggest maxi, the 83-ft Sovereign, an excellent windward performer, could be tested by the eight-year-old Gazebo and the 1985 winner, Apollo.

Sovereign has won every ocean race it has entered, except last year's Sydney to Hobart when spreader trouble forced her to retire.

The 630-nautical-mile classic is the final and deciding race in the biennial Southern Cross Cup yacht racing series, which has been contested off Sydney for the last two weeks.

Australia lead the Southern Cross Cup with 444 points, 43 ahead of New Zealand. Hong Kong follow on 345 points, followed by the United States, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, then Papua New Guinea.

HOCKEY

Wilkinson the leader at Brooklands

Malcolm Wilkinson, who made 25 appearances for England between 1979 and 1982, will captain Cheshire in the traditional Boxing Day match against Lancashire at Brooklands today (Sydney Friskin writes).

Martyn Grimley from the existing Great Britain squad will be a key figure in Cheshire's attack and two Welsh internationals, Ashcroft in goal and Peters at full back, will be their main pillars in defence.

Lancashire will feel the loss of Nicholson, who has a broken collarbone. But Ferns should keep their attack flowing helped by Michael Cooke, the son of Sid Cooke, a famous Lancashire player.

There will be matches at two other levels, veterans and juniors.

ATHLETICS

WIMBLEDON VILLAGE: Lauriston 30-minute Paarlauf: 1, D Clarke (Hercules Wimbledon) and R Figg (Guildford), 6 miles 1,131 yards; 2, M Riley (Ranelagh) and P Saunders (Belgrave), 6 miles 867 yards; 3, M Sinclair (Belgrave) and J Barratt (Worthing), 6 miles 541 yards.

BASKETBALL

NORTH AMERICA: National Association (NBA): No games played on Thursday.

TENNIS

MIAMI BEACH, Florida: Orange Bowl tournament: Girls' fourth round: J Yates (Can) bt T Weigl (WG) 6-3, 6-2; N Zvereva (USSR) bt A Berger (US), 6-3, 6-3; L Lapi (It) bt A Viera (Br), 6-2, 6-4. Boys' fourth round: J Courier (US) bt F Michelotti (It), 6-2, 6-4

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: upper runs, no snow or very little snow; middle runs, no snow or very little snow; lower slopes, no snow or very little snow; hill roads, clear, main roads, clear; snow level, 3,100ft. Forecast for today: cloudy, periods of rain, heavy in west, giving way first part of morning to sunny intervals and scattered heavy showers in west, but isolated and lighter in east. Freezing level 5500ft. Wind south-westerly, 45 mph gust 75mph on the summits, gradually becoming by midday westerly 30mph, gusts of 60mph on the summits. Outlook for tomorrow: sunny intervals, scattered rain showers mainly in west. Mild with fresh to strong westerly winds.

●Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

Graham makes his move to attract Fenwick

By Dennis Signy

Terry Fenwick, Queen's Park Rangers' England defender, could be on his way to Arsenal following a Christmas Eve move by George Graham to sign him. The Arsenal manager surprisingly contacted QPR about their £750,000-rated captain and, I understand, Graham and Fenwick were due to meet for transfer talks.

QPR, who have offered Fenwick, aged 28, the most lucrative deal in the club's history to sign before his present contract expires at the end of the season, quoted Arsenal £500,000 for him last close season.

Graham, who envisaged using Fenwick as a replacement right back for Anderson, the England international who had moved to Manchester United, and as cover for O'Leary and Adams in the centre, drew back, saying that Rangers had "talked silly money" and that he had offered "a good price" for him.

Graham has since persevered with Thomas at right back and the youngster now commands a regular place in the Arsenal side. Although QPR are reluctant to lose the services of one who has made more than 250 League appearances for them, Fenwick has delayed signing the lucrative contract offered to him by David Bulstrode, the club's chairman.

Suggestions that Tottenham Hotspur would bid for Fenwick when Terry Venables, his former manager at Crystal Palace and QPR, took over at White Hart Lane were muted when Venables was reported as saying that he was "overpriced". It was assumed that Venables would wait until Fenwick's contract expired in the summer when a tribunal would fix a fee lower than Rangers' present valuation.

Fenwick: key figure

Fenwick, a member of Bobby Robson's side in the last World Cup finals in Mexico, has played 19 times for England. A groin injury in Mexico kept him out of the QPR team in the opening three months of last season and he has not re-established himself.

Rangers, with Fenwick the key figure in a continental-style sweeper system, began this season well, leading the first division until early October, but have now gone 10 matches without a win.

Fenwick has been the only first team player to decline the offer of an improved contract into the 1990s and there have been muttering of his unrest at QPR.

The uncertainty over Fenwick's future may have contributed to QPR's declining results. Asked whether speculation about a move was affecting Fenwick's performance, Jim Smith, the QPR manager, said: "I have my own views on that."

Rangers, who visit Chelsea today with the ever-present Fenwick named in their side, play at Arsenal next Saturday.

Pleat eager to retain the style at Leicester

By Dennis Shaw

David Pleat returns to football at Leicester today with a seasonal message for Filbert Street fans which compares precisely with the one he left behind at Tottenham and Luton.

"We shall never send out teams whose objective is solely to win," he said on accepting the chance to end his unhappy exile caused by his controversial departure from White Hart Lane. "Our aim will be the same as at my previous clubs , namely to entertain and play with style."

Pleat's role today will be a passive one, quietly assessing the strengths of a team selected by the caretaker manager, Peter Morris. Then he gets down in earnest to the job of kicking-off a three-and-a-half year contract with a climb away from 17th place in the second division.

Already he has drawn a curtain over his unfortunate departure from Tottenham. "I was the wronged party but I was forced to resign," he insisted.

Tottenham are said to have paid him a nominal compensation of £15,000. "This is a lovely Christmas," he went on. "Leicester is a club with a heart. I have some fond memories of coming here in my earlier years."

Pleat: positive outlook

Nottingham-born Pleat has strong feelings for the East Midlands where he began his playing career at Forest and later introduced himself to management with non-League Nuneaton Borough.

"All my hopes and ambitions rest here now. I am grateful to be back in the game with such a welcoming club. In recent weeks I have been sustained by the support of my family and some lovely friends in football."

Pleat's task as he looks ahead to a revitalized career in the New Year is a challenging one, Leicester having not won for five games during a spell which precipitated the dis-

Leeds form put to the test

By Martin Searby

Leeds United's fate for this season could be virtually settled by the time the decorations are put away for another year. They meet four of the top six in the second division following today's visit to Manchester City, a Christmas card which is the severest test of their improved form.

Jack Ashurst, the central defender who has played in every one of the 29 games so far, recognizes the size of the task ahead. "We are going into a very difficult period, so our recent results could not have come at a better time,"he said. "They have given us confidence, but we know we can play better then we have been."

One of the reasons for the improvement has been the emergence of David Batty, aged 19, as the midfield ball-winner Leeds have lacked to support the skill of John Sheridan.

In half-a-dozen senior matches Batty has reminded many seasoned observers of Billy Bremner, now the Leeds manager, with his terrier-like determination and ability to lay the ball off quickly and accurately.

His progress has put him ahead of De Mange, the former Liverpool player, who is suspended, and John Stiles in the pecking order at Elland Road, and the coming fixtures in front of anticipated gates of 30,000 will provide him with an acid test of his temperament.

"He has earned his place, and there will be no question of his being affected by the big occasion," Bremner said.

Leeds play league leaders Middlesbrough on Monday, second-placed Bradford on New Year's Day and visit Hull City, who are unbeaten at home, 48 hours later before the third round FA Cup match at home to Aston Villa, who won 3-1 at Elland Road in October

Severe test for Ward

The suspect temperament of Mark Ward, West Ham United's fiery little winger, will be put to a severe test this morning in the home game with Wimbledon. Ward who suffered the first of his two dismissals this season, against Wimbledon in September, returns from suspension to face his adversaries again.

West Ham will almost cerainly also be able to call upon both Bonds and Stewart. Both players were having late fitness checks, Bonds on the thigh injury which curtailed his 877th first team game, against Newcastle United, last Saturday, Stewart on a damaged ankle.

Wimbledon are unchanged which means that Young keeps his place in the defence after deputising for the suspended Gayle in the last two games. Gayle is one of four contenders for the two substitite berths, the others being Phelan, Turner, the recent signing from Bristol Rovers, and Ryan.

The gap left in the Norwich City defence by the injured O'Neill is likely to be filled by Phelan, the club's new captain, at Derby today.

Ogana, the former Weymouth winger is looking to start his first senior match in almost two months for Watford who are at home to Sheffield Wednesday.

Desert Orchid, a strong favourite to gain his second successive win in the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park this afternoon, strides out purposefully on trainer David Elsworth's Whitsbury gallops. The grey, one of the most exciting steeplechasers seen on British racecourses in recent seasons, is ridden here by Elsworth's head lad, Rodney Boult. (Photograph: Ian Stewart). Today's eight racecards with the latest news, pages 28-29.

British sportsmen are making the most of Christmas in warmer climes

Blank day for the jockeys

From a Correspondent
Hong Kong

When the sun rose over Hong Kong's majestic skyline on Christmas morning, a lone Englishman was riding out at Sha Tin racecourse.

For Philip Waldron, for 17 years one of the better jockeys in England, it was very much business as usual. "The horses don't look at the calendar, they don't know it's Christmas Day," he said. "Actually, it's the way I prefer it. I feel you are still doing something useful."

Waldron, Philip Robinson and Tony Murray are the three English riders involved this season in Hong Kong's multi-billion pound racing industry. The biggest significance about Christmas away from home for all three is that it is a blank racing weekend.

While the minuscule non-Chinese population here resolutely went about making Christmas cheer, it had little effect on the English riders.

Robinson, and in particular his wife Jill, will miss Christmas at home. "Ironically, though, I'm coming back to my roots," says Jill, "My grandfather was Chinese and my father half-Chinese. It's the first time any of us have been back to China or Hong Kong.

"But it certainly doesn't feel like home. We are trying our best for the kids who are very young, and Philip's mother is with us, which really does help. That is making it a family thing. It's harder because I haven't been away before," she said.

Robinson has ridden before in Hong Kong and knows something of the ways of Hong Kong. "I've told the other lads and Jill to wait until Chinese New Year to see what a holiday, and a party, is really all about here" he says.

Tony Murray has been around the international racing scene for over 20 years. "Christmas Day has been spent in a lot of different places. But I do tend to be a bit traditional. If weight is not a problem, then it's the usual fare, turkey and the trimmings. "Bear in mind, that's a real feast for a jockey."

Allison stakes claim in Arrabida orange groves

From a Special Correspondent, Lisbon

The red Renault winds up the narrow drive between stone walls and groves of orange and lemon trees. Although it is Christmas the sun still has real warmth in southern Portugal. Three dogs pad over to greet the car as it comes to a stop in the courtyard. Out steps Big Mal himself, Malcolm Allison, once the Master of Manchester City, now the trainer of Vitoria Futebol Clube de Setubal.

Allison, as broad-shouldered, as casually and fashionably attired as ever in slacks and dark shirt, looks far younger than his 60 years. Dark glasses, worn for a touch of conjunctivitis, he says, add to the style.

From the terrace of the house, Allison points across the valley to the old farmhouses and mansions which dot the slopes at the end of the Arrabida hills. "Those were built by people who came out here after the Lisbon earthquake in 1755. Down there are the vineyards belonging to this property."

The impression is distinctly proprietorial, and the suspicion that Allison really feels at home in his latest job is confirmed as he talks of his life in Portugal, and says he will probably stay here.

"The boss offered me a five-year contract, and I think I may take him up on it," he says. "I really like the place."

When he was offered the job of training Vitoria de Setubal, the club had just been relegated to the second division. Allison liked the challenge, he says, but he was not sure about the town. "It looked so dilapidated. I didn't think I would like living here." Setubal is a sprawling port town on the Sado river at the foot of the lovely Arrabida hills. Badly hit by depression, it is the centre of a troubled industrial area between Lisbon and the rural south, a long way removed from the Cascais area where Allison lived when he trained Sporting of Lisbon.

"Finding this house made a difference," he says. The Quinta de Santo Antonio is a rustic oasis with stone-flagged floors and wood-panelled ceilings, enough to soothe anyone after a rough day in Setubal.

"You know, if you set up a friendship with a small town like this you get a very nice situation. You know everybody, everybody knows you. All the old fishermen say 'hola, bom dia'. Things like that. I think that is important. That's what professionalism is all about, making people happy."

Allison seems to have done that in Setubal. Vitoria are back in the first division and holding fourth place in a league which has always been dominated by Benfica, Porto and Sporting.

Someone has made an effort to be seasonal in the Quinta de Santo Antonio with discreet Christmas decorations. Allison and Lynn, his companion of three and a half years – they plan to marry when his divorce comes through – had friends round for Christmas dinner. "Turkey and real Marks and Spencers Christmas pud," says Lynn, an English teacher at the British Institute in Setubal.

"We lead a very quiet life here," says Allison. "We have dinner parties and we go out once or twice a week, but I've been spending a lot of time on my new book. I play tennis to keep fit, though I've been a bit restricted lately by my ankle." In May he went to Barcelona for an operation to settle an old injury. Two rows of stitches run down his right ankle.

"One of the nice things about living here is the cost of living.

Botham's home from home

From a Special Correspondent, Brisbane

Ian Botham is spending the festive season kicking white sand instead of snow with his family in their first Christmas in Australia.

Botham, his wife Kathy and children Liam, aged 12, Sarah, eight, and Rebecca, two, are celebrating Christmas on an island in the Whitsunday Passage, off Queensland's northern coastline.

Although Botham has savoured several Christmases in Australia, as a member of England touring parties, it is the first time his family have been with him.

The Bothams will be back in Brisbane for the New Year when Botham continues to help Queensland's attempt to win the Sheffield Shield for the first time. Queensland play New South Wales, starting at the Gabba on New Year's Day. Thanks to some characteristically robust performances by Botham with bat and ball, Queensland are top of the Shield table.

In addition, through Botham's association, Queensland have picked up a major sponsor, the English Carphone Group, in a Aus$500,000 three-year deal.

Queensland have Botham on a three-year contract for match payments of only Aus$280. But while that sum would hardly buy Botham a round of drinks, he stands to earn more than $A500,000 Botham will be flying with Ansett, driving a top-of-the-range Toyota and suggesting locals visit Banjo's for fast food. Australian wine is now his favourite drink and, as part of his marketing push, Botham will select 11 of Australia's best wines and market them in England under the banner of Botham's World XI.

The Bothams are delighted with the spacious house Byron purchased – at around $A250,000 – for them. The house, surrounded by trees and protected by extensive security, is ideal for Botham, who enjoys entertaining Australian style: barbecue and beer.

Fay puts on the pressure

San Diego (AP) – The New Zealander, Michael Fay delivered Christmas wishes to the San Diego Yacht Club this week, with a letter that re-opened his call for an multinational America's Cup regatta and accused Sail America of trying to "jimmy the rules."

Fay's letter accompanied final documents from a New York Supreme Court judge who ordered SDYC to accept a challenge issued by Fay or forfeit the trophy.

Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick signed her November 25 ruling that Fay's challenge for a 1988 race in 90-foot (27-metre) waterline boats was valid. In his three-page letter, Fay also disputed the approximate dates Sail America has set for its battle against Auckland's Mercury Bay Boating Club, and criticised the syndicate for considering using a multihull boat and moving the race from San Diego waters.

Sail America is managing the yacht club's defence. Fay said the Sail America chief operating officer, Tom Ehman, said he intended to "jimmy the rules" to guarantee a successful defence, a claim Ehman denied.

"He can't drive a wedge between San Diego Yacht Club and Sail America," Ehman said."You've got to have thick skin as a defender, and we've got that resolve."

Last week Fay failed to persuade SDYC officials to open the race to other challengers. The yacht club says it is playing by the rules set forth in the 100-year-old deed of gift that governs America's Cup competition in excluding other syndicates.

Sail America and SDYC also have reserved the right to name a new venue and design a different class of boat, providing it met the restrictions of the deed of gift. In his letter, Fay reiterated his objections.

The judge ruled that the defending club has the right to select the race site. Fay filed his challenge under a section of the deed of gift that called for the first race to begin within 10 months of the challenge. He claimed the first race should begin on September 15 but Ehman said Sail America's figures put the first start between August 31 and September 5.

India battle to resolve crisis of confidence

From Javed Akhtar, Calcutta

The West Indians took a day off from cricket to celebrate Christmas, but the Yuletide spirit brought no cheers for the beleaguered Indians on the eve of the third Test here yesterday.

Engaged in a bitter fight with the establishment off the field and battered and bruised by the West Indies pace battery on it, the Indians trail 0-1 after losing the first Test. They barely managed to draw the second and have lost both the one-day internationals played so far.

Having swept all before them so far, the West Indies could afford to take it easy, but the morale in the Indian camp has not been so low in the recent past.

Dilip Vengsarkar, the captain, refused to discuss the show cause notice issued to him for writing articles in newspapers in contravention of the contract with the board. "I don't want to say anything about it now. I want to concentrate on the game." he said. The 15-day deadline for his explanation expires on December 29.

The Indians had a long session of over three hours at the nets in an attempt to resolve the crisis of confidence.

Because of the nature of the wicket and the need to provide greater depth and variety in the attack, the leg-spinner, Hirwani, may make his debut in place of one of the left-arm spinners – probably Maninder Singh.

For the West Indies, Gordon Greenidge, who missed the Gauhati one-day, is likely to be fit but the vice-captain, Roger Harper, is a doubtful starter.

Border on verge of victory

Melbourne (AFP) – Allan Border, the Australian captain, is keen to employ a full complement of bowlers in the third Test match against New Zealand which starts here today following medical clearances of the seam bowlers, Reid and Hughes.

Reid, who has had back trouble, and Hughes, who has been suffering with a hamstring injury, have passed strenuous fitness tests, and Border, 1-0 ahead in the series, let it be known that he was seriously considering dropping a batsman in order to play Reid, Hughes and their fellow fast bowler McDermott, as well as the spinners, May and Sleep, which would mean that the batsman, Valetta, would become twelfth man.

"It's so tempting, but surely we should be able to get through with batting Sleep at six and Dyer at seven," Border said. "I just can't see how we can be bowled out twice and beaten, even if we reduce our batting strength."

"A final decision on our attack will depend on the condition of the wicket but if it looks good then let's go for a full frontal attack," he said.

Border needs only to draw this match to win his first series as Australia's captain. Since taking over from Kim Hughes, he has led his country in six series, twice losing to both England and New Zealand, and the best he has managed is a drawn series and the tied Test match against India in Madras.

Border said that while he regarded his double century and the Australian aggregate record in Adelaide highly, he would regard a victory in the series as more important. "I think the team deserves that, because they've put everything together over the past 12 months," he said.

Although he still regarded the Australian team as being 12 months away from being a good side, he believed the West Indies could be placed under enormous pressure next summer.

The New Zealand selectors have gone for the man in form in naming Horne, who scored a century against Tasmania last week, as Wright's opening partner, while the veteran, Chatfield, comes back into the side at the expense of Snedden. The twelfth man will be either the left-arm spinner, Gray, and the all-rounder, Patel.

AUSTRALIA (from): G Marsh, D Boon, D Jones, *A Border, M Veletta, S Waugh, P Sleep, †G Dyer, C McDermott, M Hughes, B Reid and T May.

NEW ZEALAND (from): P Horne, J Wright, A Jones, M Crowe, J Crowe (captain), D Patel, R Hadlee, J Bracewell, †I Smith, D Morrison, E Chatfield and E Gray.

Umpires: A Crafter and R French.

Plymouth date

Plymouth Albion plan to entertain a Japanese touring side, Toshiba, who will play three games in this country later this year. The match has been arranged for Sunday, March 27.

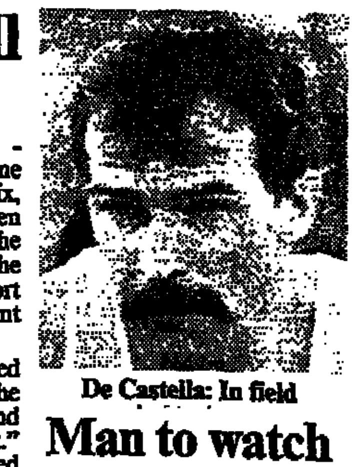
SPORT IN BRIEF

Mexico call off race

Mexico City, Reuter - Mexico's 1988 Formula One motor racing Grand Prix, scheduled for June 5, has been called off because of the country's economic crisis. The organisers decided to support of the government's recent tough austerity measures.

Most Mexicans welcomed the cancellation. Theysee the race as a waste of money and exclusively for the "jet set." The cancellation reflected Mexico's worst-ever economic crisis, with growing discontent over a recent austerity package decreed by the government, which was intended to bring inflation down from its present 150 per cent a year. But it included massive price rises.

The race would have been priced way out of the reach of the poverty-stricken Mexicans who live in slums



De Castella: In field

Man to watch

Tokyo (AFP) - Robert De Castella of Australia, the world's fourth best marathon time holder, will lead a field of 22 invited foreign runners in the 1988 Tokyo International Marathon on February 14. Also invited are Juma Ikangaa of Tanzania, a two-time winner of the race and Ahmed Salah of Djibouti.

Slaney's blow

Mry Decker Slaney will not participate in the 1988 indoor track season because she has aggravated the right calf muscle injury which bothered her in 1985. Slaney has not competed since February 28 when she won a 10 kilometres race in Phoenix.

Snow failure

The men's World Cup downhill race scheduled to be held at Schladming, Austria on December 31 has been postponed due to lack of snow. The new date and venue have not been confirmed.

Soviets send

A senior Soviet sports official said yesterday that he expected Moscow would send a team to the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.